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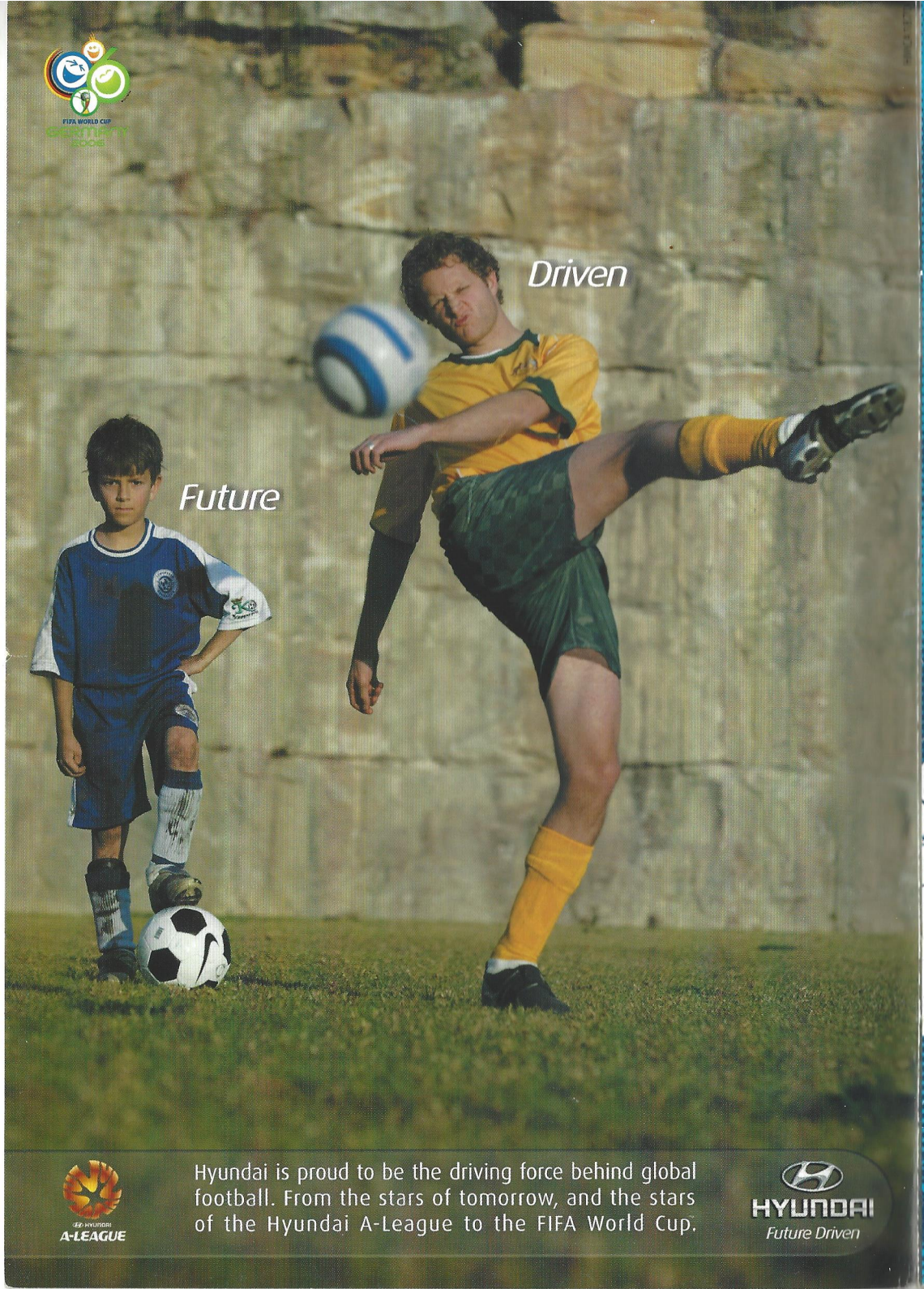

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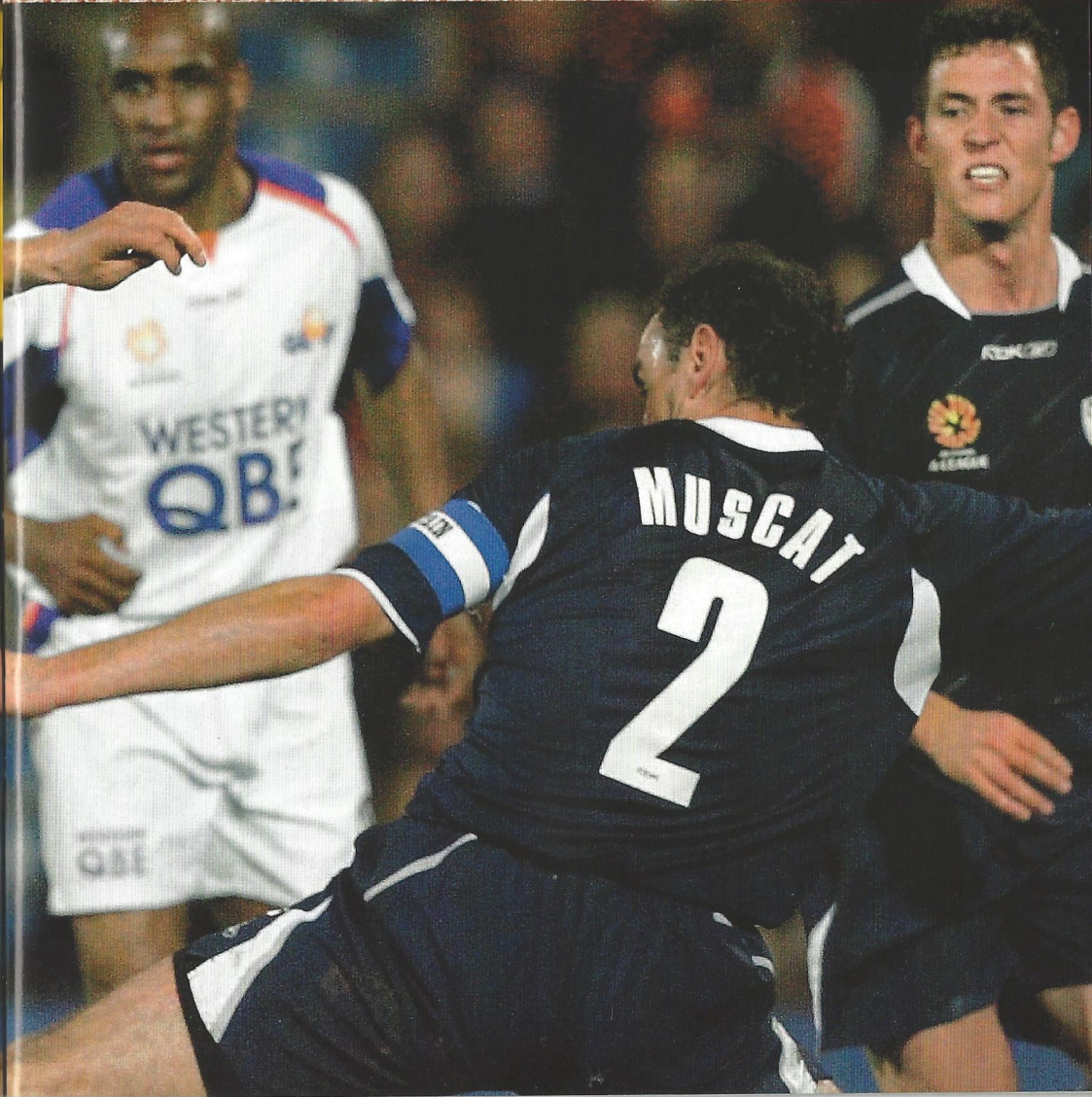
WORDS: Michael Lynch

IN THE BALANCE

The second round of the Hyundai A-League saw three draws and another sell-out crowd as teams began to find their feet. And a certain striker from the West showed he still has what it takes.



Five teams retained their unbeaten record, Melbourne attracted a sell-out crowd of 18,000 and the New Zealand Knights remained pointless after a dramatic second round of matches in the Hyundai A-League.

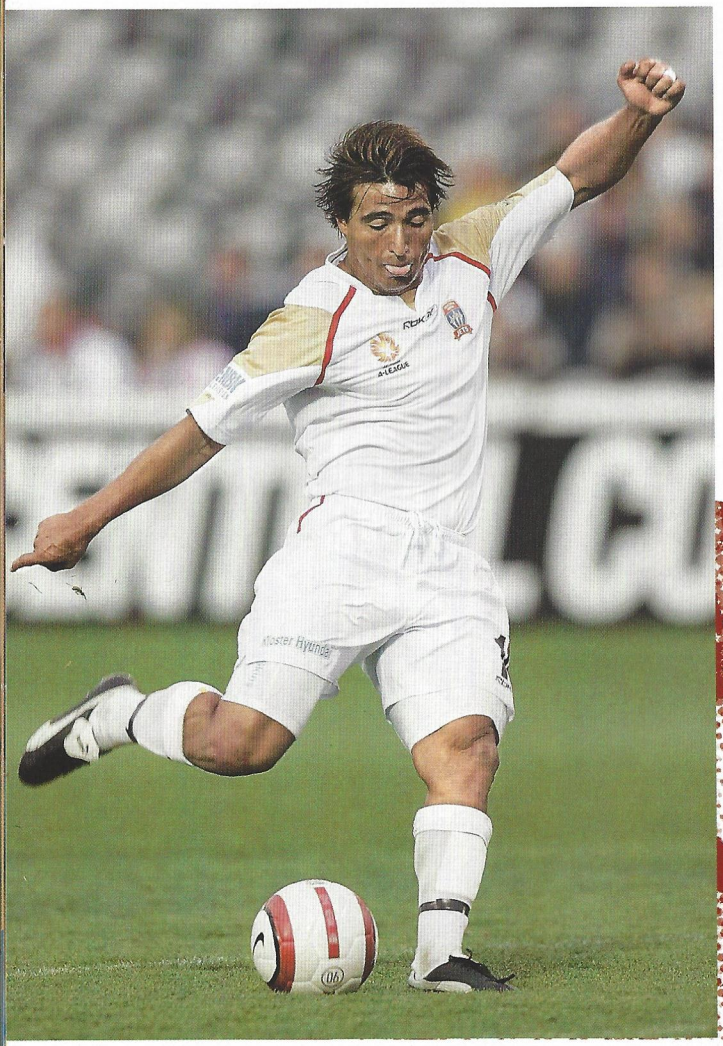
Sydney FC, courtesy of two late goals, secured a 3-1 win over the disappointing Knights in the Kiwis' Hyundai A-League home debut. The win was enough to put Pierre Littbarski's team on top of the table, ahead of a cluster of other clubs on four points thanks to a superior goal difference.

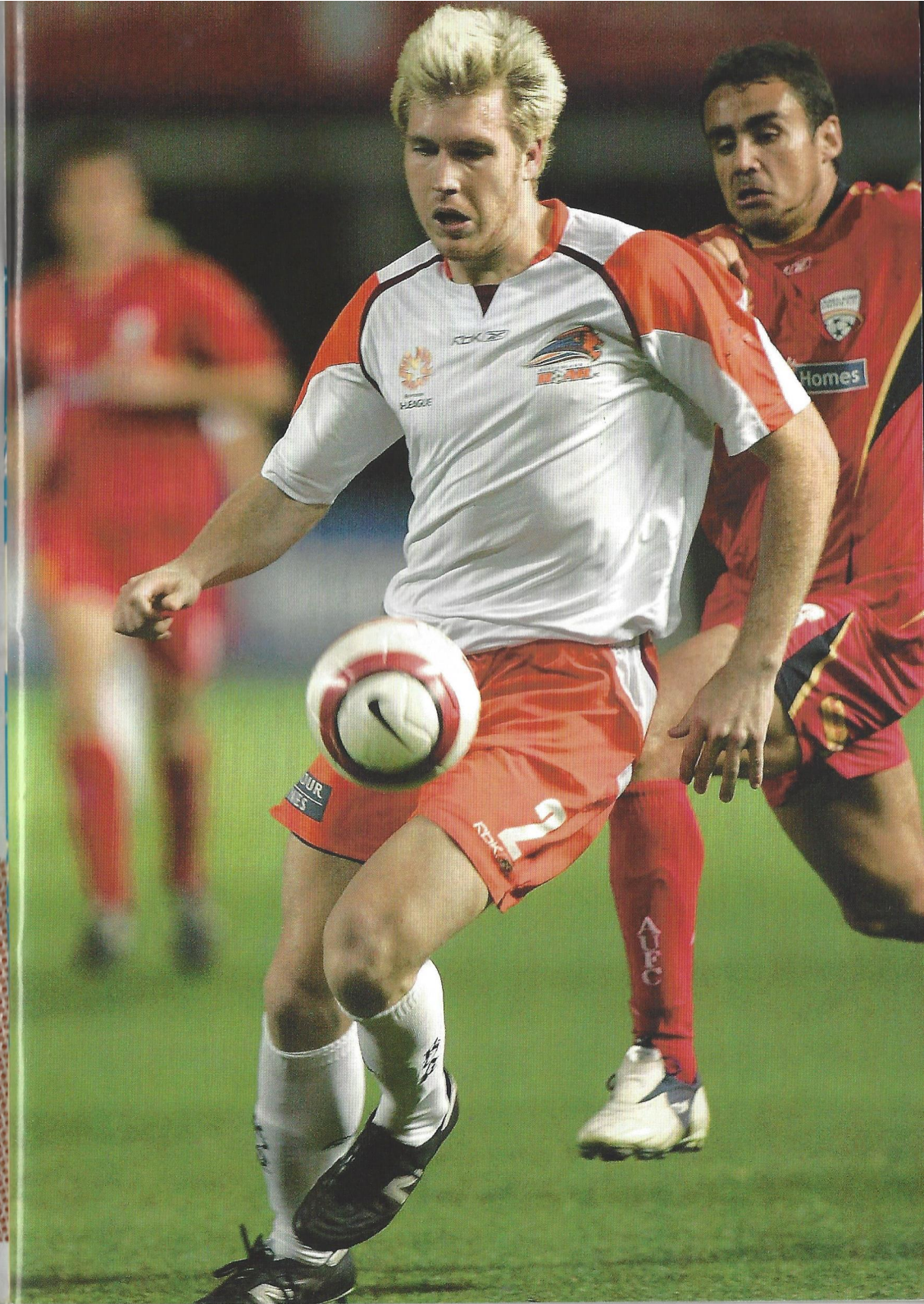
Adelaide United and the Queensland Roar played out a tense and exciting scoreless draw at Hindmarsh Stadium, while the Central Coast Mariners and local rivals Newcastle Jets also shared

Previous page: Bobby Despotovski dances around the Victory defence prior to scoring Perth's second goal.

This page: Newcastle's Nick Carle in action again Central Coast.

Opposite page: Queensland's Karl Dodd is pursued by Adelaide's Dodd – Travis.





the spoils in a 1-1 draw at Central Coast Stadium. The final game of the round in Melbourne also ended all-square when the Victory and Perth Glory drew 2-2.

Sydney travelled to Auckland without two of their trio of international strikers. Dwight Yorke was on international duty with Trinidad and Tobago, while Sasho Petrovski was with the Qantas Socceroo squad for the World Cup qualifier against the Solomon Islands.

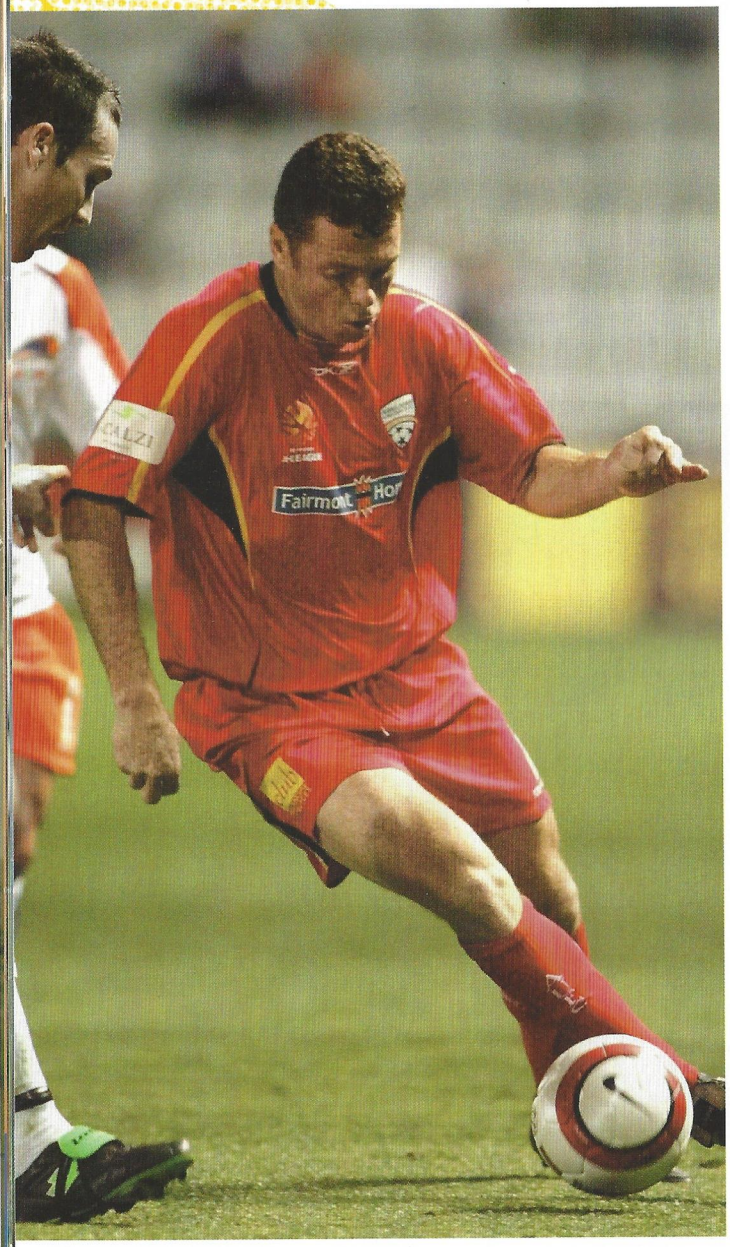
Yorke's trip to Port of Spain proved valuable for his country, as he set up the late winner for Stern John as the Trinidadians came from 2-1 down to defeat Guatemala 3-2 and keep their hopes of a World Cup playoff place alive. Petrovski stayed on the bench as Australia smashed seven past the Melanesians without reply.

In their absence David Zdrilic led the line, but it was giant defender Mark Rudan who gave the visitors a half-time lead. Josh Rose gave the New Zealanders hope when he levelled 20 minutes from time, but poor marking from a free kick gave Sydney veteran Matthew Bingley a free header four minutes later, and he made no mistake. Substitute Robbie Middleby wrapped things up with a firmly struck drive from outside the penalty area in stoppage time.

In Adelaide, there were no goals, but there was plenty of

Oppostie page: The Mariners' Dean Heffernan (right) hugs teammate Stewart Petrie (middle) after Petrie equalised in the second half.

Below: Sydney's Mark Rudan celebrates finding the back of the net against New Zealand.



Adelaide's Carl Veart runs with the ball against Queensland.

action in a busy match. The Roar had the best of things for long periods but could not capitalise on their territorial advantage in front of a crowd of more than 11,000.

Both sides had their chances, and Adelaide's Ross Aloisi hit the post early in the second half, but neither could make the breakthrough. The busiest man was referee Ben Williams, who handed out a total of eight yellow cards, four to each team.

Central Coast Mariners have been the competition's surprise team and they entertained a Newcastle side that has been perhaps the most disappointing so far in a NSW regional derby. The Mariners went into this game as hot favourites, but it was the Jets who got on the board first courtesy of Qantas Socceroo hitman Ante Milicic, who scored from a Nick Carle cross after 25 minutes.

The hosts took the game to their neighbours in the second period and their pressure produced a dividend in the 66th minute when Stewart Petrie's header from an Andre Gumprecht cross evened things up. As with all hotly contested derbies, tensions were never far from the surface, and four Newcastle players names went into referee Mark Shield's notebook. Petrie had the chance to win the game in injury time, but it finished 1-1.

In Melbourne, there had been some concern as to whether Victory would pull a big crowd given that the clash with Perth coincided with an AFL finals match in the city. The doubters should not have worried. The Victory sold out the 18,500 capacity Olympic Park, and there were large crowds of disappointed supporters turned away at the locked gates.

Those who didn't get in missed a four-goal thriller. Melbourne dominated early, with Austrian international Richard Kitzbichler's fierce drive putting them 1-0 ahead. Perth levelled

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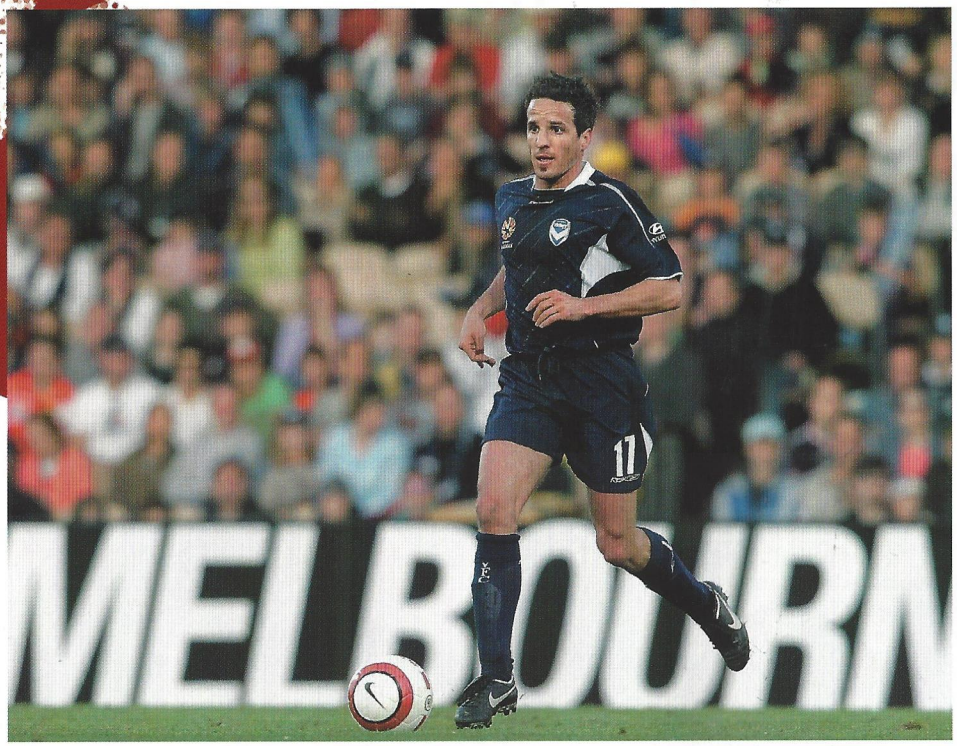

The Victory's Richard Kitzbichler, who scored the opening goal in their 2-2 draw with Perth.

against the run of play close to half-time after Adrian Caceres capitalised on Melbourne goalkeeper Eugene Galekovic's blunder.

The Brian Deane-Bobby Despotovski combination worked well to set Despotovski up for a second-half goal. That put the visitors in front, only for Melbourne skipper Kevin Muscat to equalise from the penalty spot five minutes from time.

Melbourne remains unbeaten with two draws, while Perth picked up its first point of the season.

Friday, September 9
ADELAIDE UNITED VS MELBOURNE VICTORY
Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide
This weekend's action gets underway in Adelaide when the South Australians will be looking to post their first victory in front of their own fans against Melbourne. The Hyundai A-League has only been going a few weeks, but these two clubs have already met each other several times, although they are yet to muster a goal in any of their clashes.

Adelaide knocked a half-strength Victory out of the Club World Championship qualifiers on penalties in May when the teams finished scoreless after 120 minutes. They then drew 0-0 in a practice match in Bendigo in June, and produced the same scoreline in their Pre-Season Cup game in Melbourne. The least that fans will be hoping for this time is a goal - from anyone!

Melbourne remains unbeaten after two exciting draws, and will be strengthened by Archie Thompson's return from international duty.

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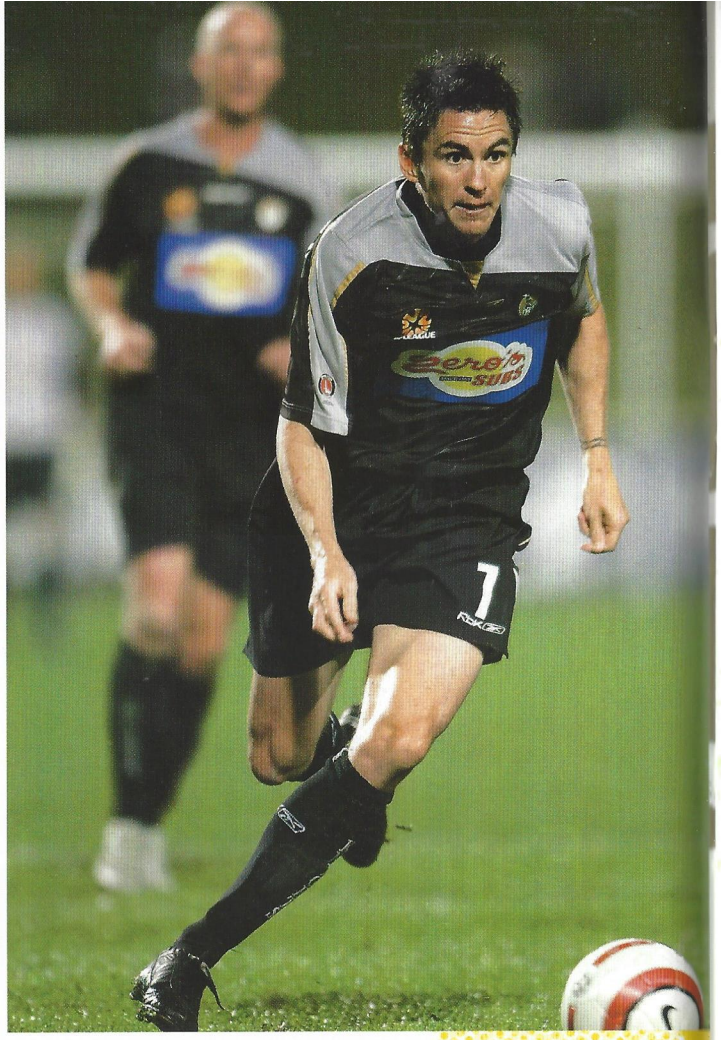
Saturday, September 10
PERTH GLORY VS QUEENSLAND ROAR
Members Equity Stadium, Perth
Perth, buoyed by their strong performance in Victoria, will be anxious to get back to winning ways on Saturday night in Western Australia when they host the exciting Queensland Roar. Big Brian Deane is gaining more match fitness with every game, and with he and Bobby Despotovski refining their strike partnership, Perth will be optimistic that this is the game which can yield their breakthrough victory.

The Roar remains unbeaten and their hard running, pacy style could unsettle Perth's physically imposing defenders.

Saturday, September 10
CENTRAL COAST MARINERS VS NEW ZEALAND KNIGHTS
Central Coast Stadium, Gosford
The Mariners, another of the unbeaten sides, will start at short odds to dispose of the New Zealand Knights, who have yet to show the Hyundai A-League their best. The Knights have lost both games and conceded five goals in the process, so must improve all over the park if they are to remain in touch, even at this early stage of the campaign.

Sunday, September 11
NEWCASTLE JETS VS SYDNEY FC
EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle
The round concludes on Sunday with a NSW derby when Newcastle entertains high-riding Sydney at EnergyAustralia Stadium. The Jets will take heart from securing their first point against Central Coast and their goalscoring potential can only improve as Milicic, who missed the Pre-Season Cup, gets closer to full match fitness. They are an experienced team with plenty of quality players, and they will not be overawed or intimated by Sydney's reputation. The visitors should have Petrovski back from international duty. Yorke's Trinidad were due to face Costa Rica in Costa Rica in the early hours of Thursday morning Australian time in another critical World Cup qualifer.

Michael Lynch is chief football writer at The Age, *Melbourne.*



New Zealand's Steve Fitzsimmons in full flight against Sydney.

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE – ROUND 2 REVIEW

NEW ZEALAND KNIGHTS 1 (Joshua Rose 69') **SYDNEY FC 3** (Mark Rudan 24', Matthew Bingley 73', Robbie Middleby 94') Crowd: 9827

ADELAIDE UNITED 0 QUEENSLAND ROAR 0 Crowd: 11,020

CENTRAL COAST MARINERS 1 (Stewart Petrie 68') **NEWCASTLE JETS 1** (Ante Milicic 25') Crowd: 5917

MELBOURNE VICTORY 2 (Richard Kitzbichler 11', Kevin Muscat 85' pen) **PERTH GLORY 2** (Adrian Caceres 40', Bobby Despotovski 56') Crowd: 17,960

TABLE

	Played	Win	Draw	Loss	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Sydney FC	2	1	1	0	4	2	+2	4
Queensland Roar	2	1	1	0	2	0	+2	4
Central Coast Mariners	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	4
Adelaide United	2	1	1	0	1	0	+1	4
Melbourne Victory	2	0	2	0	3	3	0	2
Perth Glory	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
Newcastle Jets	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
New Zealand Knights	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0

INDIVIDUAL STATS PROVIDED BY SPORTSDATA

Goals		Goal Assists		Fouls Conceded		Tackles	
Michael Baird (QR)	1	Ross Aloisi (AU)	1	Steve Pantelidis (MV)	10	Kevin Muscat (MV)	10
Matthew Bingley (SFC)	1	Michael Baird (QR)	1	Billy Celeski (PG)	9	Jeremy Christie (NZ)	9
Alex Brosque (QR)	1	Nick Carle (NJ)	1	Terry McFlynn (SFC)	9	Ben Collett (NZ)	9
Adrian Caceres (PG)	1	David Carney (SFC)	1	Sean Devine (NZ)	7	Neil Emblen (NZ)	9
Bobby Despotovski (PG)	1	Steve Corica (SFC)	1	Stewart Petrie (CC)	7	Terry McFlynn (SFC)	9
Richard Kitzbichler (MV)	1	Brian Deane (PG)	1	Daniel Allsopp (MV)	6	John Tambouras (NZ)	9
Robbie Middleby (SFC)	1	Sean Devine (NZ)	1	Ross Aloisi (AU)	6	Geoffrey Claeys (MV)	8
Ante Milicic (NJ)	1	Steve Fitzsimmons (NZ)	1	Travis Dodd (AU)	6	Ufuk Talay (SFC)	8
Kevin Muscat (MV)	1	Andre Gumprecht (CC)	1	Michael Beauchamp (CC)	5	Matthew Bingley (SFC)	7
Stewart Petrie (CC)	1	Andrew Packer (SFC)	1	Nick Carle (NJ)	5	David Carney (SFC)	7
Joshua Rose (NZ)	1						
Mark Rudan (SFC)	1						
Noel Spencer (CC)	1						
Archie Thompson (MV)	1						
Carl Veart (AU)	1						
Dwight Yorke (SFC)	1						

TEAM STATS PROVIDED BY SPORTSDATA

Goals		Goal Assists		Tackles	
Sydney	4	Sydney	4	Knights	75
Victory	3	Knights	2	Sydney	66
Glory	2	Mariners	2	Victory	42
Mariners	2	Adelaide	1	Adelaide	41
Roar	2	Glory	1	Roar	34
Adelaide	1	Jets	1	Glory	22
Jets	1	Roar	1	Mariners	22
Knights	1	Victory	1	Jets	17

SLATER SAYS
WITH ROBBIE SLATER

YOUNG GUNS

Young fans are being inspired by a new generation of Australian footballers.

After another week of outstanding action in the Hyundai A-League – both in the stands and on the field – it is encouraging to see grounds across the league packed with young faces. Kids represent the next chapter of football in Australia. And in the Hyundai A-League, they have a competition they can aspire to play in.

Young players need role models and the reformation of football in Australia has already begun to churn out icons for the younger generation, which have been sadly missing in recent times. Kids across Australia have the chance to watch and learn from a large talent pool. Aside from obvious and established role models like Dwight Yorke, Steve Corica, Nick Mrdja, Ante Milicic, Carl Veart, Brian Deane and Archie Thompson, the Hyundai A-League is fast showcasing an emerging group of exciting homegrown youngsters.

Queensland juniors have a wealth of riches when it comes to suitable heroes. Michael Baird, Jonti Richter, Massimo Murdocca and Alex Brosque are young, exciting and a great advertisement for juniors across the Sunshine State.

Elsewhere, players like Iain Fyfe (Sydney), Michael Ferrante (Melbourne), Simon Colosimo (Perth), Chad Bugeja (Adelaide) and Noah Hickey (NZ Knights) are giving kids in Australia and New Zealand the sort of role models that have not been on show Down Under for a while. Couple this with the return of Australia's best talent – minus the injured Harry Kewell – for the recent battles with the Solomon Islands and football is moving in the right direction.

Personally, I grew up watching Kenny Dalgleish and Kevin Keegan, which led to me spending a fair amount of time running around in the garden thinking I was them. Both were attacking players and suitable role models for me. As it turned out, I was lucky enough to spend time playing under Kenny Dalglish at Blackburn, which shows the power of dreams.

For any youngsters reading this, spend time watching and playing football – it's the best way to learn. Spend time kicking balls against a wall because, at the end of the day, walls don't get tired, but your parents will!

The point I am trying to make is that kids in Australia are now getting the opportunity to see international players on their own doorstep, and this can only be a good thing. By attracting young supporters, the Hyundai A-League is being graced with crowds that are colourful, passionate and a credit to all eight host cities.

On top of the strong youth contingent, the presence of families in the crowds has also been a refreshing feature of the new league. They add to the atmosphere, which, I have to say, has been unbelievable across the board. And, as we move into Round 3, it is just the beginning. Hopefully the generation of youth watching today will be taking their place in an evolved version of the Hyundai A-League in the years to come.

Keep watching and I will see you next week.

Robbie Slater is chief football analyst for Fox Sports and the Hyundai ambassador for football in Australia.

Michael Baird is one of the Roar's hottest young prospects.

WORDS: David Lewis

HIDDEN JEWEL

Not long ago, Jade North was so broke that he was sleeping on a friend's floor. Now he's back in the Australian squad – and one of the keys to Newcastle's chances for success.

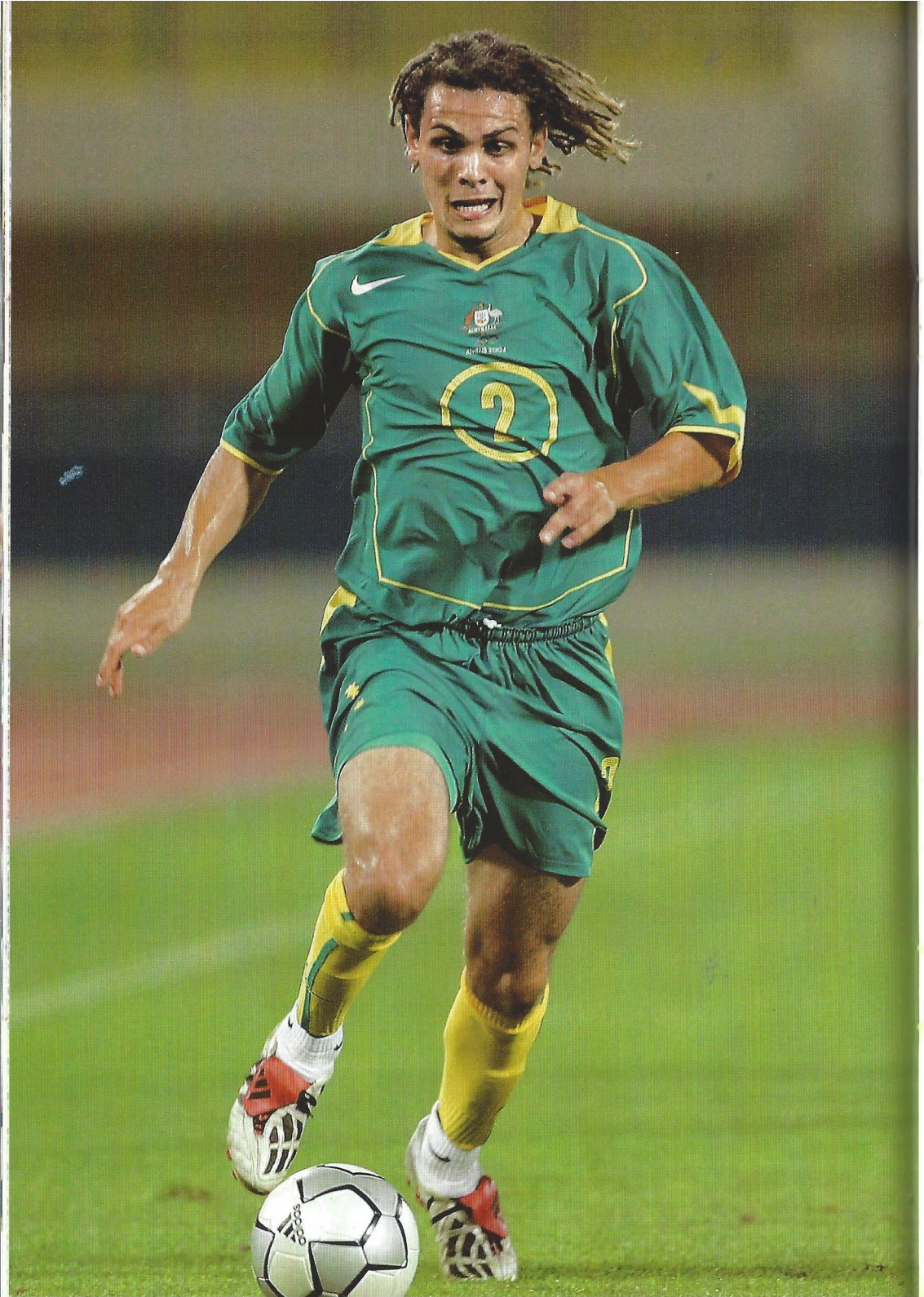
In an era where over 150 Australians have taken followed a route to success overseas, it remains an enduring mystery why Jade North isn't one of them. From Malaysia to Motherwell, Aussies can be found making a living from the beautiful game. But North has stayed in his natural habitat as one of the Hyundai A-League's most gifted athletes.

According to Newcastle Jets teammate Ante Milicic, a fellow Qantas Socceroo who won an NSL title with North at Sydney Olympic, Jade is a bauble far too precious to be viewed by Australian eyes only.

"The A-League is a huge step forward and a fantastic place for players, but I still feel Jade is one of those who really should be playing in one of the better leagues in Europe," says the striker who knows a thing or two about earning a penny abroad after spells with Rijeka in Croatia and NAC Breda in Holland.

"I think he belongs in Europe. It's unbelievable to me that he's not playing overseas. It would take him to the next level as a player and also improve his chances of being picked regularly for Australia," Milicic says.

Despite his less-than-imposing 179cm frame, North, 23, is equally effective as a stopper or full-back, and, according to Milicic, already good enough to be in Qantas Socceroo coach Guus Hiddink's starting XI for the World Cup qualification clashes against the South Americans in November.



Lucas Neill, Brett Emerton et al might beg to differ, but Milicic insists: "I know that's a big call, but I see him play every day and I know what he's capable of.

"I see him as the future of the national team. He has two or three campaigns in him. He's quick, athletic and one of the fittest guys I've ever played with. I feel extremely comfortable every time I step onto a field with Jade.

"At Newcastle, he always finishes near the top of the tests and drills because of his natural athleticism. He's one of those guys who could be out for eight weeks injured and come back and beat everybody in the running drills.

"People say he's not tall enough, but when he plays as a stopper, one thing is for sure – nobody gets past Jade North."

Born in Taree and raised in Queensland, North played in the last three finals of the old national league and appeared bound for a bigger stage after appearing in all four of the Olyroos matches at the 2004 Athens Games.

He produced a display of dazzling ability in the narrow loss to an Argentinian side that featured seasoned defenders Gabriel Heinze and Roberto Ayala and emerging stars Carlos Tevez, Javier Saviola and Andres D'Alessandro.

Argentina went on to take gold, but nominated the match against the Olyroos as their toughest of the tournament.

"You know when you've played well and I left the field feeling pretty good that day even though we lost," recalls North. "That was the best game I've had for my country."

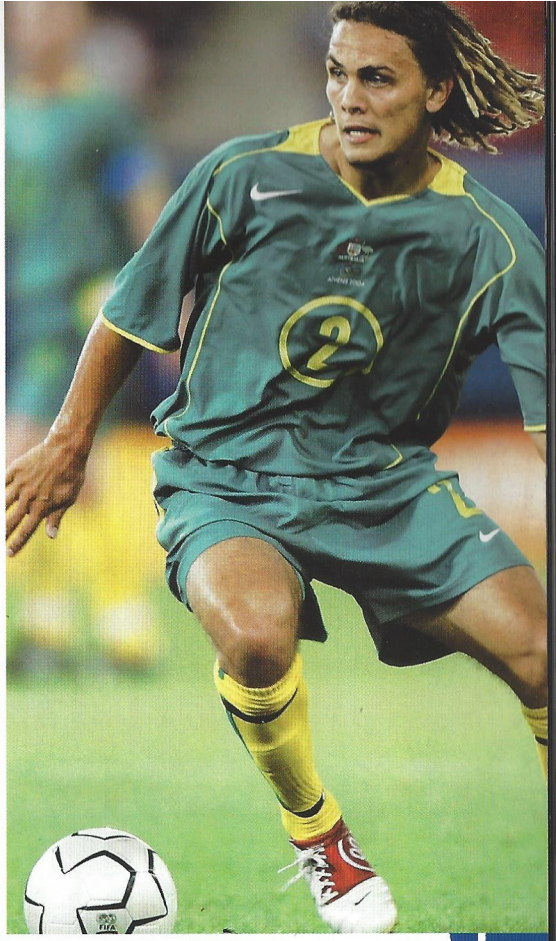
According to Milicic, that defining moment should have been enough to land him a deal overseas as North sought refuge from the ruins of the defunct national league. North, who has played 11 times for Australia, did go for a five-day trial at Crystal Palace, who had just been promoted to the Premiership.

But he failed to impress coach Ian Dowie. After watching a DVD of North's performance against Argentina, he remarked coldly: "Yeah, but he was only playing against kids."

"I certainly haven't given up hope of making it overseas," says North. "It just wasn't meant to be for me at Crystal Palace."

Rejection left North languishing in the twilight zone with his career snap-frozen and future prospects on hold.

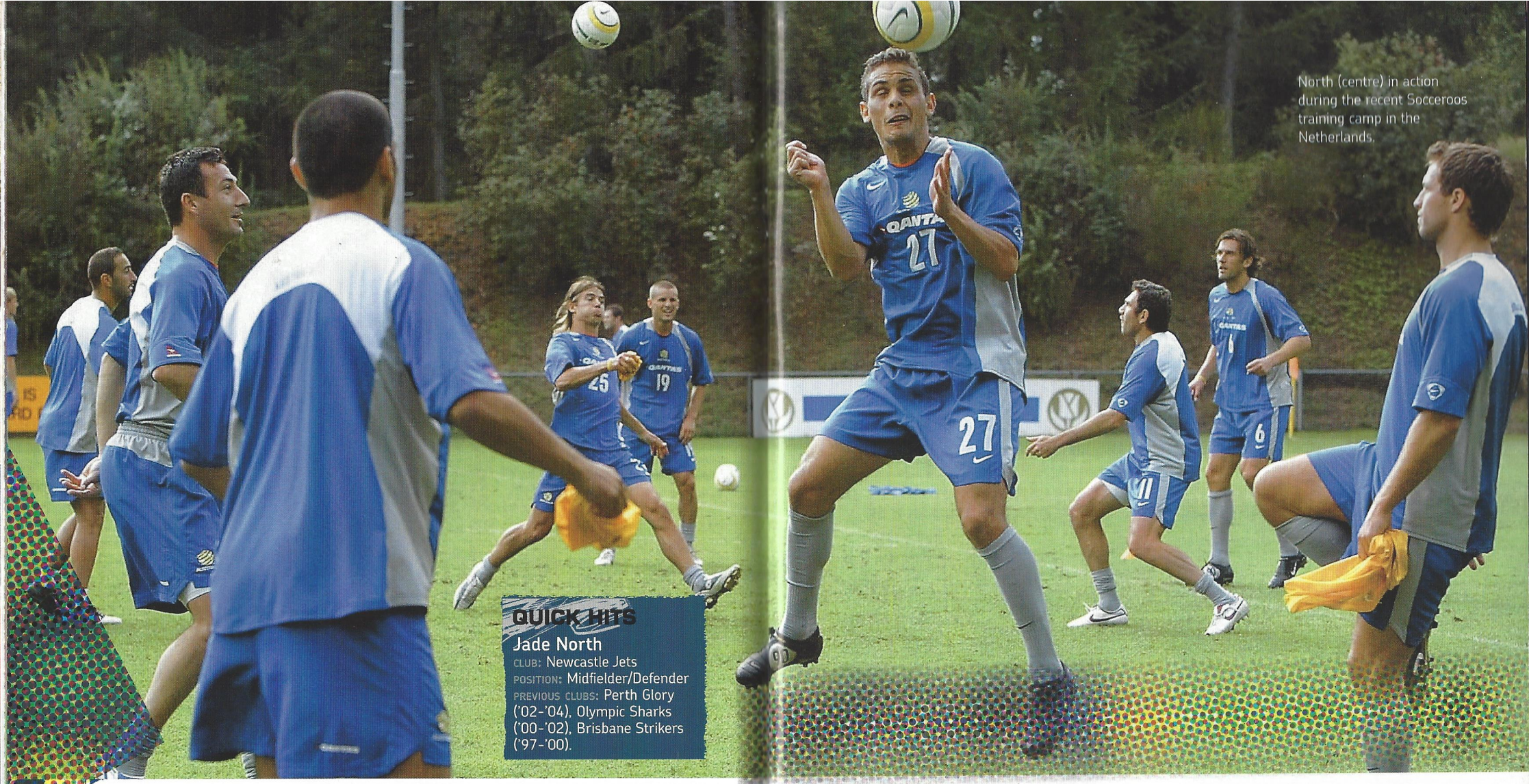
Things got so bad during the long hiatus between the end of the NSL and the emergence of



North (above and left) during his star turn against Argentina at the Athens Olympics.

"I see him as the future of the national team. He's quick, athletic and one of the fittest guys I've ever played with. I feel extremely comfortable every time I step onto a field with Jade."

– Ante Milicic



North (centre) in action during the recent Socceroos training camp in the Netherlands.

QUICK HITS

Jade North

CLUB: Newcastle Jets
POSITION: Midfielder/Defender
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Perth Glory ('02-'04), Olympic Sharks ('00-'02), Brisbane Strikers ('97-'00).

the Hyundai A-League that he ended-up broke, sleeping on a friend's spare mattress in a flat in Sydney's Darling Harbour.

"It was a but tough there for a while and I was running low on cash, so you could say being signed by the Jets was a massive boost for me," adds North, who made his national league debut at 16 years of age for the Brisbane Strikers. He also played in a World Youth Championship final for the Joeys against Brazil in 1999.

He was a part of Hiddink's train-on squad for the recent World Cup eliminators against the Solomon Islands after being selected for the Dutchman's initial training camp with his new charges in the Netherlands last month.

But he has was overlooked for June's Confederations Cup in Germany and acknowledges he might have to move to Europe to win the trust of Hiddink.

"For now I'm just happy to be in the A-League, but, of course, if I was playing in Europe and doing well, then I'd probably be looked at in a different light regarding the national team," he admits.

North insists the Jets will not be left grounded after being criticised for a perceived lack of pace and a shallow reservoir of invention.

"We've had a few injury problems, but there's a long way to go and I think you'll find we'll be very competitive," he insists. "We have the quality in the squad with players like Ante Milicic, Ned Zelic and Nicky Carle.

"Ned just needs a lot of the ball, then you watch him make things happen."

North shares the pulse of excitement which has greeted the arrival of Hiddink – the man the Qantas Socceroos believe has the panacea for the nation's World Cup ills.

"He's so thorough in the way he does everything and it's given us all renewed hope that he's here to guide us," says North. "Perhaps we needed a bit of a shake-up.

"After what he achieved in taking South Korea to the semi-finals, there is an aura about him. There isn't a better coach around and being near him is a great experience for me, personally."

North has travelled a long way since the day in 1997 he came at the age of 15 to the MCG as part of a Queensland Institute of Sport delegation to watch Australia self-destruct against Iran in a match that still haunts many a soul.

"That was a pretty painful day in the life of a lot of Australians, and I was as badly effected by it as

anybody. It's strange, though, watching the likes of Mark Viduka that day and now being out there myself training with him for the national team. It's a spin-out."

North believes 31 years of heartbreak may be about to end. "We've got to go for it and I think having Guus on board now will make the difference this time," he predicts.

He is also a lightning rod for an untapped fan base – the Aboriginal community. His new Newcastle home is close to his extended family around Taree and he hopes to have swarms of relatives at most home matches. He was a finalist in the Aboriginal Sportsman-of-the-Year awards last year, and would like to the the first of many indigenous people to embrace the golden game.

"My heritage means a lot to me," he adds. "And football could be a way forward for many others like me."

David Lewis covers football for The Daily Telegraph *in Sydney.*

North signs autographs prior to playing for Australia in March.

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HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

THE BOY'S A BIT SPECIAL

BILLY CELESKI

PERTH GLORY

AGE: 20 **POSITION:** Midfield

WORDS: Jonathan Cook

Billy Celeski was 14 when he saw a future in football – professional football. It was then that Celeski, playing in a Victorian state underage team, made up his mind to put everything he had into the game that had first captured his imagination, and then his feet, as a seven-year-old.

"It was football all the way for me. It was No. 1 priority and I just stuck with it," Celeski says as the Hyundai A-League's first season gets underway.

Back then, some of his favourite players wore the red of Liverpool and had the names Owen and Fowler printed across their shoulders. Celeski, now 20, had only a fleeting interest in Australia's domestic competition, which seemed a million miles away from the pace and grace of the European game in which Michael and Robbie were stars.

Fast-forward just half-dozen years and Celeski's world has changed. Professionalism is upon him in the shape of the Hyundai A-League, and he is poised to excel as a vital component in Perth Glory's 20-man squad.

If things go well, some time soon Australian kids should be proudly wearing Glory shirts emblazoned with the young star's name. Talented young players such as Celeski can only help draw new fans to the game.

He gave Glory fans a cameo of his promise in one sharp, darting run in the Pre-Season Cup against Newcastle Jets at Members Equity Stadium. After receiving a short pass just inside the Jets half, he set off on a snaking run which left a trail of opponents in his wake and earned his side a penalty. The home fans applauded Celeski's creativity, though Newcastle were unhappy with the decision.

If, over the next few years, things go very well for Celeski, he might eventually make his way to Europe, though he has no bursting desire to leave this country to pursue flickering opportunities on the other side of the world.

"I just want to go as far as I can. I want to keep working hard and make a good living at it and look back and be happy with what I've done," Celeski says.

Glory coach Steve McMahon, who won three English league titles and two FA Cup-winner's medals with Liverpool in the 1980s, has already seen the potential in Celeski's game.

"I've been very impressed with Billy. His attitude and work ethic

are superb. I can only see Billy going from strength to strength; he's got a lot of potential," McMahon says.

Celeski, who was born in Ohrid, Macedonia, was "seven or eight" when he started playing for Preston's under-10s. At 15, he entered the Victorian Institute of Sport, moved on to the Australian Institute of Sport at 16.

As Football Federation Australia was starting to put into place the skeleton structure of the new league, Celeski headed to England, and one of the country's biggest clubs, Chelsea.

The trials came to nothing, but Celeski had international duties to attend to anyway and joined the Qantas Young Socceroos preparing for the World Youth Championships.

"The idea was to go to Chelsea and hope some of the lower clubs would be interested," Celeski says. "I was happy with how it went. I had a couple of sessions with some of the big guns, so it was a really good experience."

He is now ready to unleash his emerging talent on the A-League. As for Perth Glory, he has no doubt they will make an impression on fans in their first crack in the new environment.

"Glory will do extremely well in this league this year. Finals definitely," he says. "And I'm really happy to be here - just to be part of it."

Jonathan Cook is football writer for The West Australian *newspaper.*

"(Billy's) attitude and work ethic are superb. I can only see him going from strength to strength." – Steve McMahon

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PERTH GLORY
Player Profiles

JASON PETKOVIC 1
GOALKEEPER

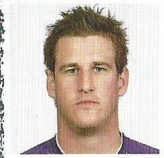
Age 32 **Games** 2
Height 194cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

Second spell with Perth after a season in Turkey. Former NSL goalkeeper-of-the-year and has played at senior international level.

MATTHEW HORSLEY 2
DEFENDER/MIDFIELDER

Age 33 **Games** 0
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 77kg

Tough, game and consistent right-sided wing-back. Four-time NSL champion, twice as skipper of Wollongong, twice with Perth. Has played for Australia at senior level.



DAVID TARKA 3
DEFENDER

Age 22 **Games** 0
Height 190cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

A full international representative who has returned after 18 months in England with Nottingham Forest. Will miss the season's start due to injury.

SIMON COLOSIMO 4
MIDFIELDER

Age 26 **Games** 2
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 75kg

Current international who scored the winner in Australia's victory over New Zealand in London. A Marston medal-winner for best afield in an NSL grand final.

JAMIE HARNWELL 5
DEFENDER

Age 28 **Games** 2
Height 188cm **Goals** 0
Weight 93kg

One of Perth's more experienced players, he is a no-nonsense defender who bobs up at the other end of the pitch to score crucial goals. The Glory's captain.

STEVE McMAHON JR 6
MIDFIELDER

Age 21 **Games** 2
Height 175cm **Goals** 0
Weight 71kg

The first signing made by his father Steve, the Glory's coach. Hard-running and tenacious, he also played for McMahon senior at Blackpool in England.

SCOTT MILLER 7
DEFENDER

Age 33 **Games** 2
Height 178cm **Goals** 0
Weight 75kg

Miller has been with the Glory since the club entered the old NSL in 1996. Left-sided wing-back who missed much of last year with Achilles problems.

NICK WARD 8
MIDFIELDER

Age 20 **Games** 2
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 79kg

Young Socceroo anxious to stake his claim. A hard-working, tireless runner who scored the pre-season winner which snapped Sydney FC's unbeaten streak.

BOBBY DESPOTOVSKI 10
STRIKER

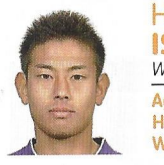
Age 34 **Games** 2
Height 180cm **Goals** 1
Weight 81kg

Another in the veteran class, Glory's all-time top scorer put off retirement for another shot at the top-level in Australia. Quick, skilful and retains his eye for goal.

DANIEL VASILEVSKI 11
MIDFIELDER

Age 23 **Games** 0
Height 177cm **Goals** 0
Weight 78kg

Ex-Carlton and Melbourne Knights junior international with a lot of class who's career has been blighted by injury. Used mainly as a wing-back or wide midfielder.



HIROYUKI ISHIDA 12
WINGER

Age 25 **Games** 2
Height 171cm **Goals** 0
Weight 67kg

Flashy, pacy Japanese winger who illustrates the global nature of the game, having played in Brazil before arriving in Australia.

ANTE KOVACEVIC 13
DEFENDER

Age 31 **Games** 2
Height 186cm **Goals** 0
Weight 89kg

Experienced, tough-tackling centre-back with good leadership qualities who can also play as a sweeper. Won two NSL titles as a youngster with the Melbourne Knights.

JAMIE COYNE 14
DEFENDER/MIDFIELDER

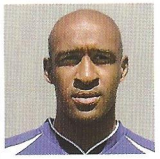
Age 24 **Games** 2
Height 175cm **Goals** 0
Weight 76kg

Nowadays a right-back, Coyne began as a midfielder. Left Perth as a youngster and went to West Ham. Also had a spell in the Netherlands.

BILLY CELESKI 15
MIDFIELD

Age 20 **Games** 2
Height 178cm **Goals** 0
Weight 73kg

Another Victorian who has gone west, Celeski came through the VIS program before moving on to the AIS. Has played for the Young Socceroos.



BRIAN DEANE 16
STRIKER

Age 37 **Games** 2
Height 192cm **Goals** 0
Weight 79kg

Became a footnote in football history when he scored the first goal in the English Premier League for Sheffield United in August 1992. Former England international.

STUART YOUNG 17
STRIKER

Age 32 **Games** 0
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

Veteran striker who will provide forward cover. Twice NSL champion alongside Horsley at Wollongong.

HENRY FA'ARODO 18
STRIKER

Age 22 **Games** 1
Height 172cm **Goals** 0
Weight 70kg

The only Solomon Islands international in the Hyundai A-League. Blessed with lightening pace, but needs to improve his first touch if he wants to become a regular.

NAUM SEKULOVSKI 19
MIDFIELDER/WINGER

Age 23 **Games** 0
Height 181cm **Goals** 0
Weight 81kg

Another Victorian who came out of the VIS program, and played at a number of NSL clubs. An attacking midfielder who will be expected to provide support in the final third.

MILAN JOVANIC 20
GOALKEEPER

Age 20 **Games** 0
Height 187cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

The Serbia and Montenegro youth international was pitched into action as first-choice keeper before Petkovic's clearance from Turkey came through.

ADRIAN CACERES 21
MIDFIELDER/STRIKER

Age 23 **Games** 2
Height 180cm **Goals** 1
Weight 78kg

Won two NSL titles with the Glory before moving to the Wycombe Wanderers in England. He is on a short-term contract replacing the injured Neil Teggart.

PERTH GLORY

Homeground:
Members Equity Stadium, Perth

Coach:
Steve McMahon

Captain:
Jamie Harnwell

No.	Name	Position	Goals
1.	Jason Petkovic	Goalkeeper	
2.	Matthew Horsley	Defender/Midfielder	
3.	David Tarka	Defender	
4.	Simon Colosimo	Midfielder	
5.	Jamie Harnwell	Defender	
6.	Steve McMahon Jr	Midfielder	
7.	Scott Miller	Defender	
8.	Nick Ward	Midfielder	
10.	Bobby Despotovski	Striker	
11.	Daniel Vasilevski	Midfielder	
12.	Hiroyuki Ishida	Winger	
13.	Ante Kovacevic	Defender	
14.	Jamie Coyne	Defender/Midfielder	
15.	Billy Celeski	Midfield	
16.	Brian Deane	Striker	
17.	Stuart Young	Striker	
18.	Henry Fa'arodo	Striker	
19.	Naum Sekulovski	Midfielder	
20.	Milan Jovanic	Goalkeeper	
21.	Adrian Caceres	Midfielder/Striker	

TEAM SCORE

Half-time

Full-time

QUEENSLAND ROAR

No.	Name	Position	Goals
1.	Tom Willis	Goalkeeper	
2.	Karl Dodd	Defender	
3.	Remo Buess	Defender	
4.	Chad Gibson	Defender	
5.	Josh McLoughan	Defender	
6.	Todd Gava	Defender	
7.	Tae-Yong Shin	Midfielder	
8.	Massimo Murdocca	Midfielder	
9.	Michael Baird	Striker	
10.	Royce Brownlie	Striker	
11.	Jonathan Richter	Striker	
13.	Tyler Simpson	Defender	
14.	Ben Griffin	Defender	
15.	Matt McKay	Midfielder	
18.	Hyuk Su Seo	Midfielder	
17.	Reece Tollenaere	Striker	
18.	Warren Moon	Midfielder	
19.	Alex Brosque	Striker	
20.	Scott Higgins	Goalkeeper	
21.	Spase Dilevski	Defender	

Homeground:
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

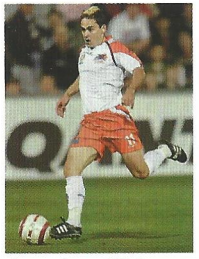
Coach:
Miron Bleiberg

Captain:
Chad Gibson

TEAM SCORE

Half-time

Full-time



Jonathan Richter

QUEENSLAND ROAR

Player Profiles

TOM WILLIS 1

GOALKEEPER

Age 21 **Games** 2
Height 182cm **Goals** 0
Weight 82kg

Agile goalkeeper who has played for his country at schoolboy level and was a member of the squad which went to the 2003 World Youth Cup in the UAE.

TODD GAVA 6

DEFENDER

Age 24 **Games** 0
Height 175cm **Goals** 0
Weight 81kg

Gava will be playing at this level for the first time in his career. State League player-of-the-year for Queensland Lions in the last three seasons.

KARL DODD 2

DEFENDER

Age 24 **Games** 2
Height 187cm **Goals** 0
Weight 87kg

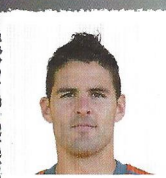
Provides strength at the back and had NSL experience with Brisbane Strikers, with whom he won the supporters player-of-the-year award in 2004.

TAE-YONG SHIN 7

MIDFIELD

Age 34 **Games** 1
Height 173cm **Goals** 0
Weight 69kg

Will be out injured for the forseeable future. He has returned to Korea to undergo further tests on his troublesome ankle.



REMO BUESS 3

DEFENDER

Age 27 **Games** 2
Height 190cm **Goals** 0
Weight 90kg

Highly experienced Swiss defender who won junior caps for his country. Has represented several top Swiss clubs, and played in the UEFA Cup with Neuchatel Xamax.

MASSIMO MURDOCCA 8

MIDFIELD

Age 21 **Games** 2
Height 165cm **Goals** 0
Weight 60kg

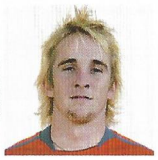
The mighty atom, Murdocca makes up with pace, workrate and enthusiasm for what he lacks in size. Went to the under-17 and under-20 World Cups with Australia.

CHAD GIBSON 4

DEFENDER

Age 29 **Games** 2
Height 185cm **Goals** 0
Weight 75kg

Captain of the Roar and one of the stars of the the league's advertising campaign. A confident defender who has played in the old NSL, Malaysia and Norway.



MICHAEL BAIRD 9

STRIKER

Age 22 **Games** 2
Height 179cm **Goals** 1
Weight 77kg

Played alongside Murdocca at South Melbourne. A quick, hard-working, aggressive frontman who also was a junior international.

JOSH McLOUGHAN 5

DEFENDER

Age 29 **Games** 2
Height 191cm **Goals** 0
Weight 83kg

Tall central-defender who is strong in the air. One of the club's vice-captains. Won the Brisbane Strikers player-of-the-year award in 2003/04.

ROYCE BROWNLIE 10

STRIKER

Age 25 **Games** 1
Height 184cm **Goals** 0
Weight 88kg

A consistent goalscorer, the powerfully built Brownlie has plenty of experience following stints with Parramatta, Marconi and Brisbane in the NSL.

JONATHAN RICHTER 11

STRIKER

Age 22 **Games** 2
Height 170cm **Goals** 0
Weight 65kg

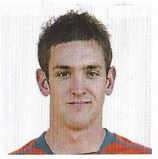
Quick, skilful forward who came through the QAS and AIS development programmes before winning a place in the Australian under-20 set up.

REECE TOLLENAERE 17

STRIKER

Age 28 **Games** 1
Height 181cm **Goals** 0
Weight 77kg

Began his career with the Brisbane Strikers a decade ago, Tollenaere is one of the team's more experienced campaigners.



TYLER SIMPSON 13

DEFENDER

Age 19 **Games** 0
Height 198cm **Goals** 0
Weight 97kg

Twin brother of teammate Jordan (who's out with a long-term injury), Tyler is a versatile defender who can play in the centre of defence or at right full-back.

WARREN MOON 18

MIDFIELD

Age 23 **Games** 1
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 77kg

Left-sided midfielder who poses a threat from dead-ball situations. Moon was with the Brisbane Strikers in the last NSL season.

BEN GRIFFIN 14

DEFENDER

Age 19 **Games** 0
Height 186cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

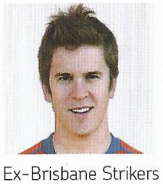
Steady, reliable defender who came through the state development system and went on to represent Australia at under-17 and under-20 level.

ALEX BROSQUE 19

STRIKER

Age 21 **Games** 2
Height 183cm **Goals** 1
Weight 70kg

Brosque made his Socceroo debut in 2004. A skilful, left-sided frontman who moved to Europe with Feyenoord, before shifting to Belgian side Westerlo.



MATT McKAY 15

MIDFIELDER

Age 22 **Games** 2
Height 186cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

Ex-Brisbane Strikers midfielder who has a high work-rate and the ability to both set-up goals and score. The 2001 National Youth League Player of the Year.

SCOTT HIGGINS 20

GOALKEEPER

Age 29 **Games** 0
Height 200cm **Goals** 0
Weight 94kg

Tall goalkeeper who joined the Roar from Brisbane Strikers. Also had a spell with Canberra in the old NSL.

HYUK-SU SEO 16

MIDFIELDER

Age 32 **Games** 2
Height 178cm **Goals** 0
Weight 77kg

Gained plenty of experience in Korea's K-League, this strong, tough-tackling midfielder protects the Roar defence and adds steel to its line-up.

SPASE DILEVSKI 21

DEFENDER

Age 20 **Games** 1
Height 180cm **Goals** 0
Weight 77kg

Much-travelled youngster who has already played in England (with Tottenham), Germany (Essen) and Holland (PSV Eindhoven).

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WORDS: Michael Lynch

NATIVE SON

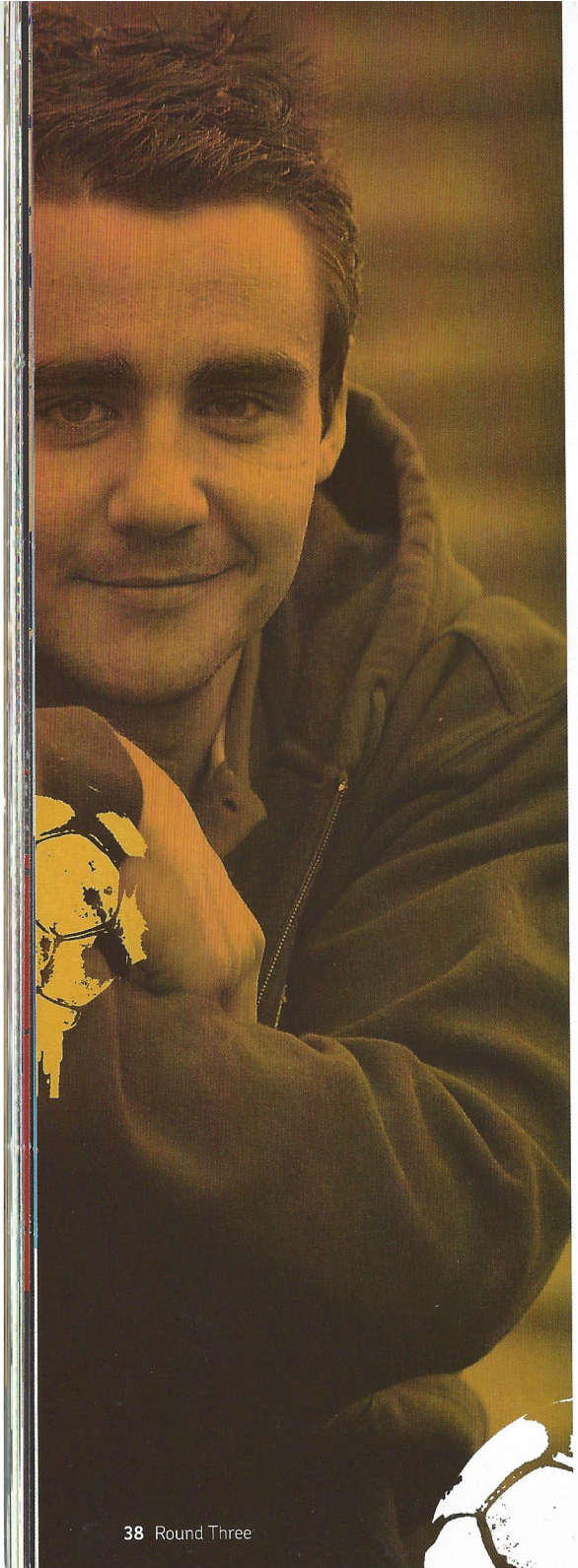
Adelaide-born Travis Dodd has returned to his hometown, lured by the Hyundai A-League and the hope to help develop indigenous football.

Adelaide's speedy midfielder-cum-striker Travis Dodd is a perfect example of the sort of Australian player the Hyundai A-League has been set-up to target. Twenty-five years old, Dodd learned all his football here and was good enough to play in one of Europe's more competitive leagues, spending a season with Panionis in the Greek first division and playing in the UEFA Cup.

But the lure of home and family ties was strong, and with the establishment of a fully professional league, Dodd felt there was now a competition that was sufficiently credible on the field and financially viable off it to attract him, and players like him, back home. *Total Football* sat down to have a chat with one of the Hyundai A-League's few indigenous footballers.

***Total Football*: Where were you born?**
Travis Dodd: I am from Adelaide - out north at Elizabeth Vales.

Did you play any other sports as a kid?
I played basketball when I was younger, and also baseball. When I was 14 years old, I was



in the state team for both football and baseball. It was after that that I had to choose which one to go on with.

So we could have seen you in the US major leagues then?
Not really. I had to choose and it wasn't a difficult decision. I wasn't all that sure I wanted to play baseball. Mum had to trick me to get me to go to baseball – soccer was my real love.

When did you think you might have a future in football?
I played at St Augustine's until I was 12, then spent three years with the Adelaide City juniors. After that I went to SASI (South Australian Sports Institute) and played for the state, so then I was hoping I might be able to do something.

How soon did it all happen for you?
Pretty quickly. I made my NSL debut at 16, and I was in the squad for the whole season that year, although I was on the bench a lot.

Where did you play overseas?
In Asia and Europe. I had a short spell in Malaysia, with Johor FC. I didn't get on with the coach, so that ended shorter than I thought it was going to. But, it happened for a reason, because I then ended up in Greece, playing with Panionis.

How did that come about?
I didn't have an agent at the time, and not knowing what was going to happen with the A-League, I felt I needed to get overseas. I emailed a few agents and Leo Karis got back to me and he helped me get a trial.

How was it?
Greece was a relatively big step-up. You have got some very big teams there, particularly the big four headed by Olympiakos and Panathinaikos. They are full of superstars. As you get down to the next level of top-divison clubs, it's still good, but I think a lot of the players from here could go over there and do well. You are taking a risk when you go over there though, with whether you will get paid or not.

Was that a problem for you?
Yes. My wife Bronwyn was five-months pregnant and came back to Australia with my son and I found it very stressful not being paid. It's something that people have to be aware of. It's not good, but there are so many players lining-up and wanting to get a crack at the big leagues that they take a chance. The potential exposure of playing in the league was massive, so it was a risk I was willing to take.

What were the biggest games you played in?
Definitely the UEFA Cup qualifiers against Italian team Udinese and then in the UEFA Cup. We won the first leg at home against Udinese 3-1 and I scored in that. We lost 1-0 in Italy but qualified. I then played in our group matches against Sporting Lisbon, Newcastle United and Dynamo Tiblisi. We played Newcastle at home. It was a real thrill to be on the same pitch as players like Alan Shearer, Craig Bellamy, Jermaine Jenas ... I had been watching them on television in the Premier League and here I was playing against them.

Was it hard to leave and come back to Australia?
It was not difficult because of everything that was happening with the money in Greece. I could not speak the language and then my wife's father died and I wanted to come home – football was not a priority at that stage. It was an easy enough decision to take.

What do you think your best position is?
Our coach likes to play 4-4-2, so playing as a wide midfielder in that set-up suits me better. Midfielders are expected to help out all the time, so you can be involved in the game a lot. And I like to be able to pick up the ball and run at defenders. I have also played a lot up-front. I quite like it up there, but I don't like the pressure that's on you to score all the time.

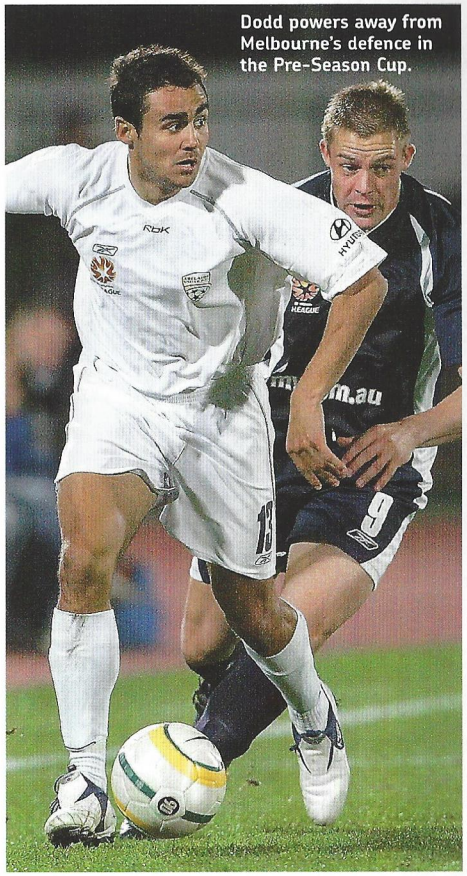
Your biggest career thrill?
Scoring the first goal in our win over Udinese in only my second game for the club. And then, going to Italy a fortnight later and being able to defend a lead for 90 minutes to get into the UEFA Cup – that was unreal.

Biggest career disappointment?
Also in Greece. It was a massive opportunity for me to use Panionis as a springboard to go on to bigger things, but it obviously didn't work out. Hopefully, I can play well here in the A-League and get another chance to go back to Europe.

Toughest opponent?
Marek Jankuloski, who was playing for Udinese. He was a member of the Czech national team. Locally Jade North is a super athlete. He's quick, good on the ball and a good defender.

What do you think of the standard of the Hyundai A-League so far?
It's definitely higher than the old NSL. Reducing 13 teams down to eight means you have got the cream of the crop from this country, plus good foreign players and a real star like Dwight Yorke.

You played other sports at high level. Do you still follow any others?
I follow Port Adelaide. I never played Aussie Rules even though my dad is Aussie Rules mad. I don't mind watching any sport.



Dodd powers away from Melbourne's defence in the Pre-Season Cup.

Dodd celebrates Adelaide's first-up victory over Newcastle.

QUICK HITS

Travis Dodd

CLUB: Adelaide United
POSITION: Midfielder/Striker
PREVIOUS CLUBS:
Panionios (Greece) ('04–'05)
Johor (Malaysia) ('04)
Parramatta Power ('03–'04)
Newcastle United ('00–'03)
Newcastle Breakers ('99–'00)
Adelaide City ('96–'99)

How would you like to improve the game here?

I am indigenous, and there are not many indigenous players in our game apart from myself and Jade North, and that's a bit of a disappointment for me. The AFL has a strong hold on many Aboriginal communities; the game is part of the culture so they get a lot of indigenous boys playing that code. I would like to see efforts made to target more indigeous boys into soccer and I would like to help that.

The AFL does it really well, and look how many indigenous players they get for their teams. A lot of those boys would also make good soccer players.

Why shirt number 13?

I wanted 23, but the FFA said it was too high – the numbers had to be between one and 20. So I thought bugger it, I'll take 13 and show them its not unlucky!

Michael Lynch is the chief soccer writer for The Age *in Melbourne.*

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WORDS: Michael Lynch

HOMECOMING HEROES

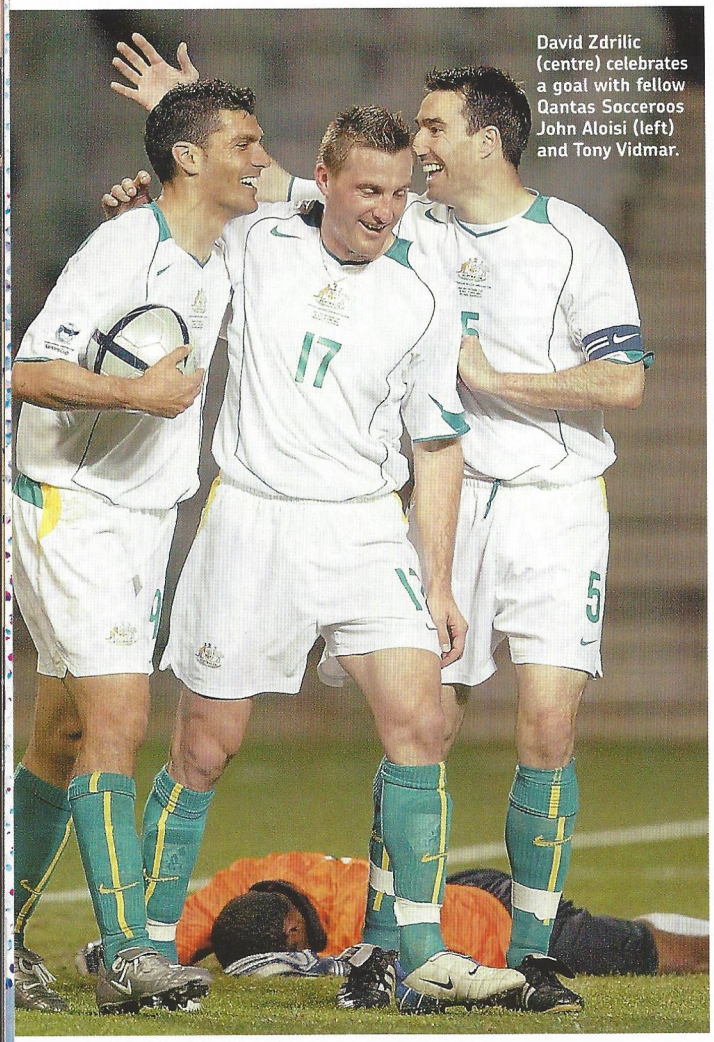
The advent of the Hyundai A-League has seen several current and former Qantas Socceroos return to Australian shores. We take a look at the founding members of football's RSL – the Returned Socceroos League.

Prodigal sons: (left to right): Steve Corica, Kevin Muscat and David Zdrilic.

They are the best known members of Australian football's very own RSL – Returned Socceroos League. Players like Sydney co-captain David Zdrilic and his teammate Steve Corica, Melbourne Victory duo Kevin Muscat and Archie Thompson, Newcastle's Ned Zelic and younger stars like Queensland Roar's Alex Brosque and Perth Glory's injury-hit David Tarka.

They are all men who, at differing stages of their careers, have decided to leave behind careers in Europe to play a key role in developing their club and the game itself in the fledgling Hyundai A-League.

Many have taken salary cuts to do so. Some have returned home because they are at a stage in their personal and professional life that it suits them to come back to their roots and play out their career where they started. For men like Zdrilic, in his hometown of Sydney, and Muscat, in the Melbourne he grew up in, that is obviously the case.



David Zdrilic (centre) celebrates a goal with fellow Qantas Socceroos John Aloisi (left) and Tony Vidmar.

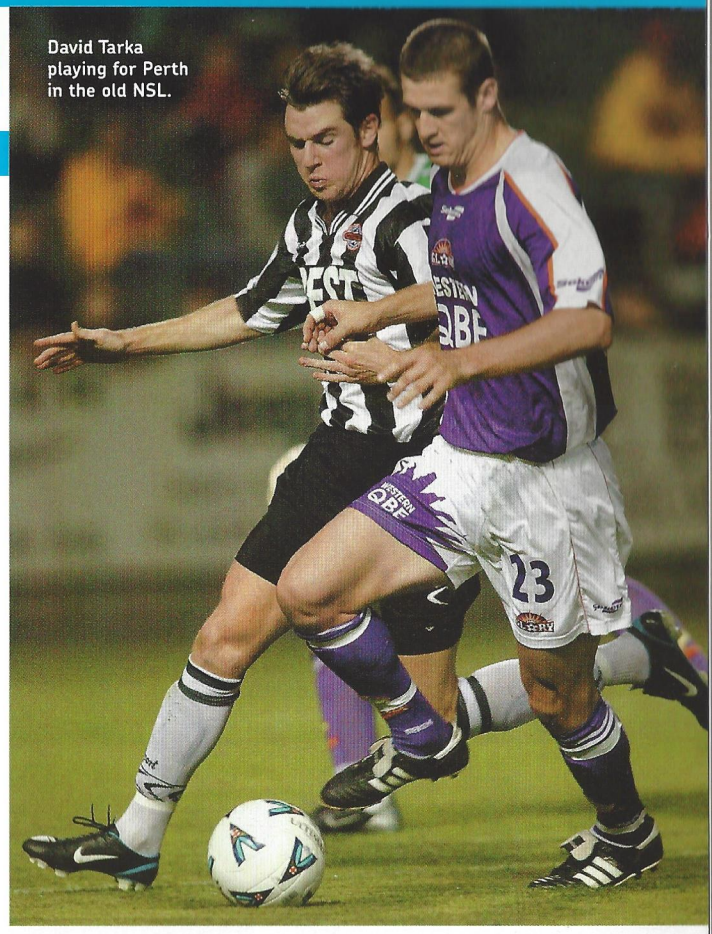
Some of the younger players – like Brosque and Tarka – have come back to their native country to recuperate and regroup after their careers stalled or failed to progress in the way they had hoped.

Brosque, the former Marconi youngster, made his debut as a full Socceroo in the Oceania World Cup qualifiers in 2004. From there he moved to Dutch giants Feyenoord, who loaned him to Belgian side Westerlo. It all went wrong when he sustained an injury which ensured he was either on the bench, out of the team or on the treatment table too long to make the right kind of impression.

The Roar has given him the opportunity to start again, and at age 22, he has time on his side. He is certainly enjoying it, as he showed with the exquisitely struck long-range effort which put the Roar in front in its opening-day win over New Zealand. He is relishing the chance to revitalise himself by playing first-team football and holding down a major role in a team going places.

Tarka is a similar case, although he has yet to play a game in the competition for his club, Perth Glory, because of injury. A tall and commanding

They are all men who have decided to leave behind careers in Europe to develop the game itself.



David Tarka playing for Perth in the old NSL.

central defender, Tarka made his full Socceroo debut in the same series of games as Brosque, but, like the Roar striker, found his time in Europe less than fulfilling.

Nottingham Forest, the former European champions, signed him from Glory in 2002, but he was never able to show what he could really do in the English midlands because a series of injuries prevented him gaining full fitness. He should be available to Steve McMahon in a couple of weeks when he recovers from a hamstring problem which has plagued him since before the pre-season.

These two may use the Hyundai A-League as a springboard back to Europe once they have rehabilitated themselves as quality players in the domestic competition. But with the levels of professionalism now evident in the Australian game, they have the chance to stay and become part of a group of young men who will become the league's inaugural hero figures. Hopefully many will go on to have long and successful careers in the new competition.

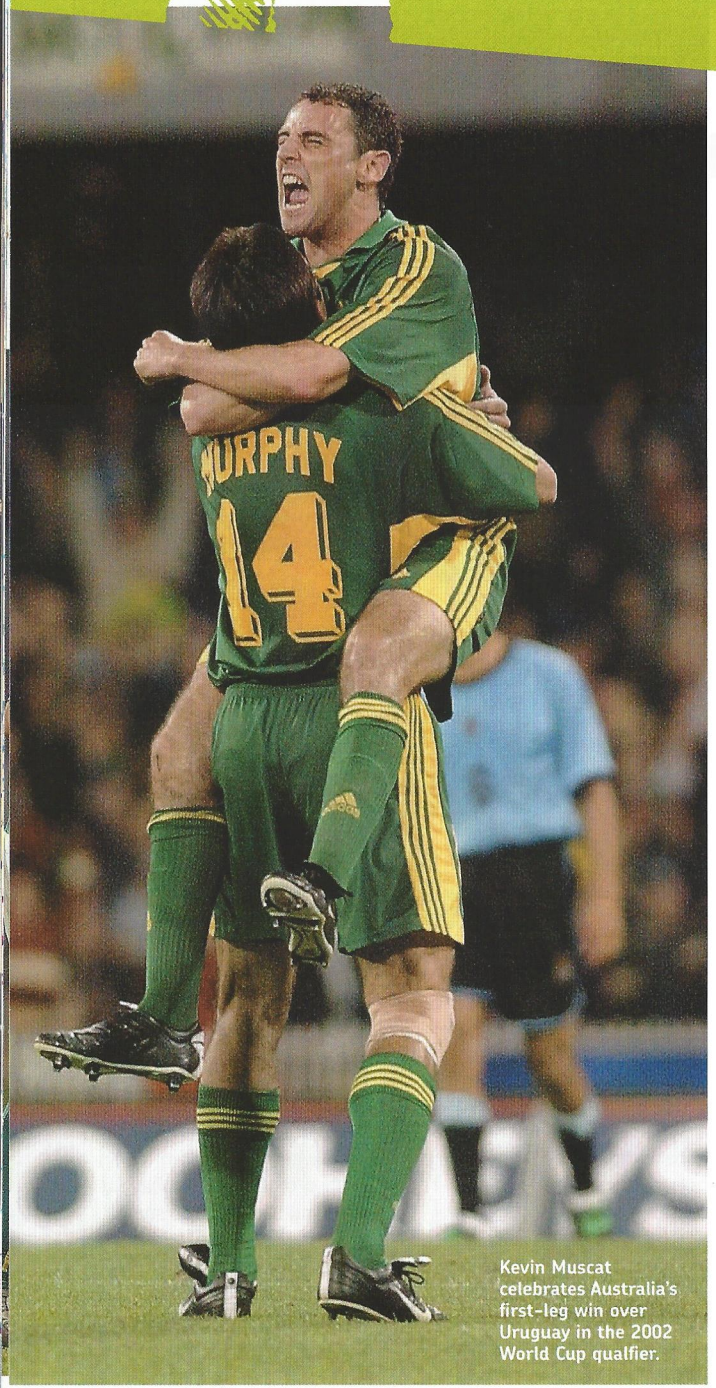
Zdrilic, Corica and Muscat are rather different. The former is 31 now, while Muscat and Corica are 32. They are here to finish off their career with a bang and, as Muscat says, make a contribution to the sport that gave him such great opportunities as young men.

"This is a decision I have not taken lightly. I have been over in England for 10 years, nearly. That is a long time, and I am excited at the prospect of the new A-League and what it represents. This is definitely not a financial decision. I am taking a wage cut to come here. To be honest, the money side of things never really entered into my consideration.

"The new league looked like too good an opportunity to miss. It's been very much the pull of home, a great opportunity to come back to Melbourne. I have, throughout my career, made no secret of the fact that I want to come back and live here. In the past, the opportuntities weren't there.

"I also wanted to come back and play here while I was still young, still fit and still a good player; when I was still in the condition that meant I could put something back into the sport. I don't just want to make up the numbers, I want to play a really important role in the team."

Zdrilic, who spent several seasons playing at the highest level of German football in the



Kevin Muscat celebrates Australia's first-leg win over Uruguay in the 2002 World Cup qualfier.

Bundesliga, said he had heard rumours about the new competition while he was playing with Aberdeen in Scotland and Trier in Germany's Second Division and thought "that sounds interesting". But he had his doubts, too.

"I was a bit sceptical because we have all heard it before. but then I started to see what the FFA were trying to do and what their plans were. I felt it had to work sometime. It came at a good time for me, really. I was in a position where I could not stay in the UK any more because of work-permit restrictions and I had gone to Germany with Trier. I had a three-year contract, but I wasn't enjoying my football over there. It's all a bit funny in hindsight, especially after that first game with Melbourne and the 25,000-strong crowd, saying it was a great decision. But the reality was that nobody knew how it was going to turn out.

"I spoke to the people at Trier and was honest with them. I told them I couldn't see myself staying there all the time. I didn't really want to be there, so I spoke to Lou Sticca (Sydney's recruiting agent). It took the coach at Trier a while to accept the reality – that I didn't want to stay – but he did in the end. I had been there for six months, and I felt I was acting professionally."

Zdrilic enjoyed success in Germany with FC Ulm, a small-town club that he helped win promotion to the top level. "I started in Switzerland with FC Aarau, then moved to Germany with FC Ulm. We got up to the Bundesliga, which was great.

"I felt that it sounded like a great opportunity ... the chance to be in at the beginning." - Steve Corica

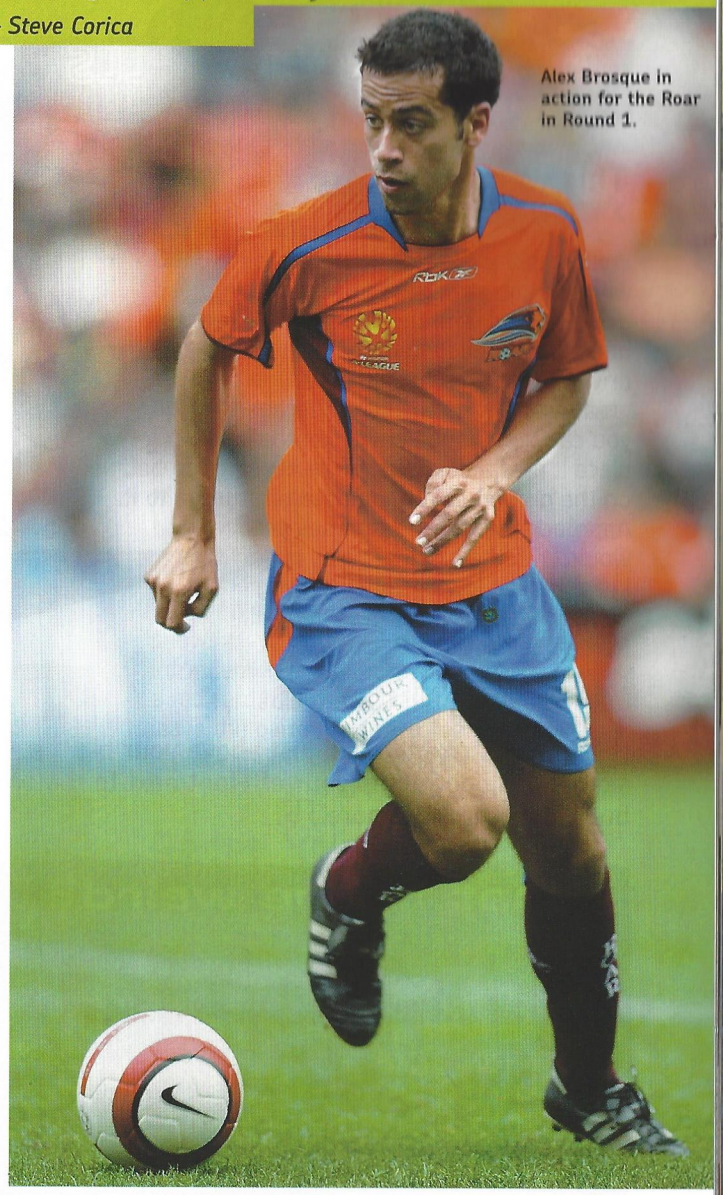
I also played in the Bundesliga with Unterhaching. I liked it at Ulm ... I could have stayed there for years, but its been great back here, too. Look at the crowd we had - 25,000. That's unheard of here. I really hope it keeps going."

Corica left Marconi in 1995 and moved to England, where he joined Leicester City. He then spent four years at Wolves (where Muscat also played) and two years with Hiroshima in Japan before moving back to Wallsall, in the English midlands. Like Zdrilic and Muscat, he was a regular figure in Australian squads over the past decade.

"I had a year left on my contract in England with Wallsall but I wanted to come back before the A-League started, and I knew what was likely to be happening around August-September last year. Once they (Sydney FC officials) knew the club had got in, it wasn't really a hard sell.

"I just felt that it sounded like a great opportunity, the start of a new league, the chance to be in at the beginning. I have two young girls, and my eldest daughter started school this year, so I wanted to get settled somewhere for her.

"It's been fantastic, especially since Pierre Littbarski has taken over. We are a very professional club and I have not worked this hard even in the 10 years I was overseas. The training was hard, but that was because he wanted us to be very fit for the start of the season. We have had two training sessions a day. In England you didn't do that because you were playing so much.

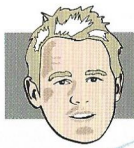


Alex Brosque in action for the Roar in Round 1.

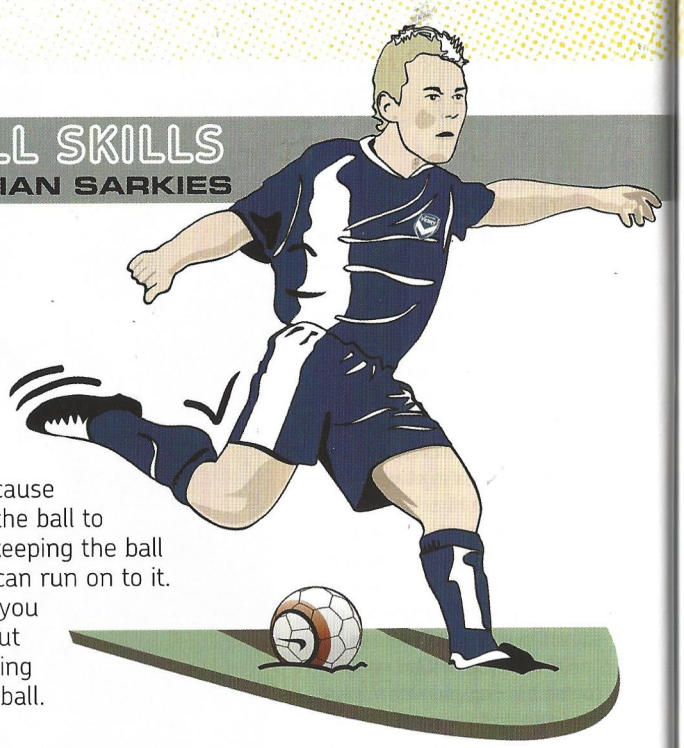
"I have signed a two-year deal. At the end of that I will be 34, hopefully I will be able to go on a bit longer than that, maybe for another two seasons until I am 36."

By that time Corica and the rest of the RSL will know whether their gamble paid off.

Michael Lynch is the chief soccer writer for The Age *in Melbourne.*



FOOTBALL SKILLS
WITH KRISTIAN SARKIES



This week's skill:
> DRIVE PASS

If you want to play a low pass with enough strength to get past an opponent, then you'll need to use the instep and drive through the ball. It is great for splitting a defence because you can get enough power on the ball to place it past a defender, while keeping the ball on the ground so a teammate can run on to it. Approach the ball the same as you would with the sidefoot pass, but keep the ball low by concentrating on keeping your knee over the ball. Remember not to lean back.

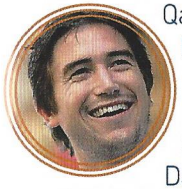
KRISTIAN SAYS:

"Aim to strike the ball just above your big toe, between the laces and side of the boot. Keep your off-foot next to the ball, same as a short pass, but follow through more."

What in the weird?

The world record for goals scored in senior football stands at an amazing 149-0. It happened in Madagascar in 2002 – and they were all own goals! League champions AS Adema won a match 149-0 – more than quadrupling the existing record - and without gaining possession between the first goal and the 149th. Their opponents, Stade Olymique L'Emyrne, took complete control of the game, reducing Adema to the role of onlookers, as they deliberately plonked the ball in the back of their own net 149 times, in protest over a refereeing decision. Adema's players reportedly stood around looking bemused, doing nothing to stop the opposition from self-destructing. Australia hold the international record with a 31-0 defeat of American Samoa in a FIFA World Cup Qualifier in Coffs Harbour, March 2001.

DID YOU KNOW?



Qantas Socceroo star **Harry Kewell** could have played for England despite his Aussie upbringing. Because his Dad, Rod, was born in England, Harry could have pulled on the three lions shirt. Luckily for us, Harry decided to pledge his allegiance to Australia, debuting against Chile in April 1996 at the age of 17.

"I was born and bred in Australia and I've always wanted to wear the green and gold," said Kewell. "The thought of playing for England never crossed my mind. There was never any doubt; my country is Australia."

JUMBLED PLAYERS

Some of the Hyundai A-League's players have had their names rearranged. Can you unjumble them? Answers are below the jumbled names.

1. **CORN EEL PENS** scored the opening goal for the Mariners in round one.

2. Sydney's midfield features **A FAULTY UK.**

3. **MATE VIC SUNK** firms up the Victory defence.

4. Perth's **ANDY AFRO HERO** brings pace to the frontline.

Answers: 1. Noel Spencer. 2. Ufuk Talay. 3. Kevin Muscat. 4. Henry Fabrodo.

C A-Z OF FOOTBALL

Join us as we work our way through the football alphabet.

Craig Moore

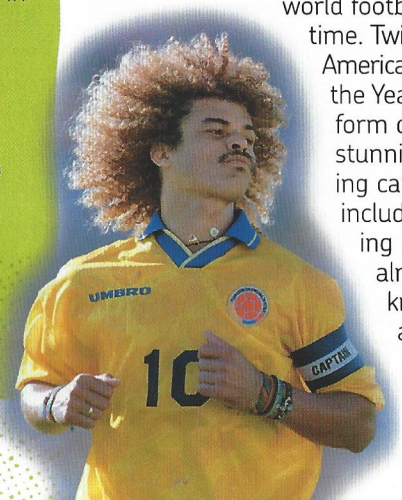
Qantas Socceroos captain Craig Moore has been at the heart of Australia's defence for many years now. He had a very successful stint at Glasgow Rangers before being stripped of the captaincy there when he opted to represent his country at the Athens Olympics at the start of the 2004-05 season. He then moved to Borussia Monchengladbach before landing at Newcastle in the Premier League this year.

Cards

What no player wants to see. The referee shows players red or yellow cards for severe infringements. The yellow is a warning, while a red card means the player must immediately leave the game, and their team cannot replace them. The same applies if you get two yellow cards in the same game.

Carlos Valderrama

One of the real characters of world football in the 1990s, Valderrama was the driving force behind Colombia's emergence on the world football stage in this time. Twice named South American Footballer of the Year, he was in top form during Colombia's stunning 1994 qualifying campaign, which included a 5-0 thrashing of Argentina. He is almost as well known for his talent as for his outrageous hair (see left).



FIXTURE

ROUND	FIXTURE	VENUE	KICK-OFF
ROUND 1			
Fri 26 Aug 05	Newcastle Jets FC 0 **Adelaide United FC 1**	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Fri 26 Aug 05	Perth Glory FC 0 **Central Coast Mariners FC 1**	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	8.00 pm
Sun 28 Aug 05	**Queensland Roar FC 2** New Zealand Knights FC 0	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	3.00 pm
Sun 28 Aug 05	Sydney FC 1 Melbourne Victory FC 1	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm
ROUND 2			
Fri 2 Sep 05	New Zealand Knights FC 1 **Sydney FC 3**	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 2 Sep 05	Adelaide United FC 0 Queensland Roar FC 0	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sun 4 Sep 05	Central Coast Mariners FC 1 Newcastle Jets FC 1	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	3.00 pm
Sun 4 Sep 05	Melbourne Victory FC 2 Perth Glory FC 2	Olympic Park, Melbourne	5.00 pm
ROUND 3			
Fri 9 Sep 05	Adelaide United FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sat 10 Sep 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	7.35 pm
Sat 10 Sep 05	Perth Glory FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.35 pm
Sun 11 Sep 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Sydney FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
ROUND 4			
Fri 16 Sep 05	Sydney FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 17 Sep 05	Perth Glory FC vs Adelaide United FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.35 pm
Sun 18 Sep 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	3.00 pm
Sun 18 Sep 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
ROUND 5			
Thu 22 Sep 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Perth Glory FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 23 Sep 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Sydney FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	8.00 pm
Sun 25 Sep 05	Adelaide United FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	6.30 pm
Sun 25 Sep 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	5.00 pm
ROUND 6			
Fri 30 Sep 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Sat 1 Oct 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	7.35 pm
Sat 1 Oct 05	Perth Glory FC vs Sydney FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.35 pm
Sun 2 Oct 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Adelaide United FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	6.00 pm
ROUND 7			
Fri 7 Oct 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	8.00 pm
Sat 8 Oct 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Perth Glory FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	7.35 pm
Sun 9 Oct 05	Sydney FC vs Adelaide United FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm
Mon 10 Oct 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	7.00 pm
ROUND 8			
Fri 14 Oct 05	Adelaide United FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sun 16 Oct 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Sydney FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	1.00 pm
Sun 16 Oct 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Queensland Roar FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	6.00 pm
Sun 16 Oct 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Perth Glory FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	5.00 pm
ROUND 9			
Fri 21 Oct 05	Sydney FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 22 Oct 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Adelaide United FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.35 pm
Sun 23 Oct 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
Sun 23 Oct 05	Perth Glory FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	5.00 pm
ROUND 10			
Fri 28 Oct 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Adelaide United FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Sat 29 Oct 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sat 29 Oct 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Perth Glory FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.35 pm
Sun 30 Oct 05	Sydney FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm
ROUND 11			
Fri 4 Nov 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 4 Nov 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Sat 5 Nov 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Sydney FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Sun 6 Nov 05	Adelaide United FC vs Perth Glory FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	4.30 pm
ROUND 12			
Fri 11 Nov 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Fri 11 Nov 05	Perth Glory FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Sun 13 Nov 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Adelaide United FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	3.00 pm
Sun 13 Nov 05	Sydney FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm

ROUND	FIXTURE	VENUE	KICK-OFF
ROUND 13			
Fri 18 Nov 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Sat 19 Nov 05	Sydney FC vs Perth Glory FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sun 20 Nov 05	Adelaide United FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	4.30 pm
Sun 20 Nov 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	6.00 pm
ROUND 14			
Fri 25 Nov 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Fri 25 Nov 05	Perth Glory FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Sat 26 Nov 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sun 27 Nov 05	Adelaide United FC vs Sydney FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	4.30 pm
ROUND 15			
Thu 1 Dec 05	Queensland Roar FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00 pm
Fri 2 Dec 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Adelaide United FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Sat 3 Dec 05	Sydney FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sun 4 Dec 05	Perth Glory FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	5.00 pm
WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - WEEK ENDING 11 DECEMBER 2005			
WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - WEEK ENDING 18 DECEMBER 2005			
WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - WEEK ENDING 25 DECEMBER 2005			
ROUND 16			
Thu 29 Dec 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Perth Glory FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Fri 30 Dec 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Sydney FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sat 31 Dec 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	6.00 pm
Sun 1 Jan 06	Adelaide United FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	6.30 pm
ROUND 17			
Thu 5 Jan 06	Adelaide United FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Fri 6 Jan 06	Sydney FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 7 Jan 06	Perth Glory FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Sun 8 Jan 06	Central Coast Mariners FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	5.00 pm
ROUND 18			
Thu 12 Jan 06	Perth Glory FC vs Adelaide United FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Fri 13 Jan 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Sat 14 Jan 06	Sydney FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sun 15 Jan 06	Queensland Roar FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	6.00 pm
ROUND 19			
Thu 19 Jan 06	New Zealand Knights FC vs Perth Glory FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 20 Jan 06	Adelaide United FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sat 21 Jan 06	Queensland Roar FC vs Sydney FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00 pm
Sun 22 Jan 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
ROUND 20			
Thu 26 Jan 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Fri 27 Jan 06	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Sat 28 Jan 06	New Zealand Knights FC vs Adelaide United FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sun 29 Jan 06	Perth Glory FC vs Sydney FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	5.00 pm
ROUND 21			
Fri 3 Feb 06	Sydney FC vs Adelaide United FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 4 Feb 06	Melbourne Victory FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	6.00 pm
Sat 4 Feb 06	Queensland Roar FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00 pm
Sun 5 Feb 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs Perth Glory FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
FINALS			
WEEK 1	**SEMI-FINAL 1ST LEG (1 v 2, 3 v 4)**		
Fri 10 Feb 06			
Sun 12 Feb 06			
WEEK 2	**SEMI-FINAL 2ND LEG (1 v 2, 3 v 4)**		
Fri 17 Feb 06			
Sun 19 Feb 06			
WEEK 3	**PRELIMINARY FINAL (LOSER 1 v 2) v (WINNER 3 v 4)**		
Sat 25 Feb 06			
WEEK 4	**GRAND FINAL (WINNER 1 v 2) v (WINNER PRELIMINARY)**		
Sat 4 Mar 06			

All times local and subject to change

CLUB NEWS

A club-by-club guide to what's happening off the field in the Hyundai A-League.

Adelaide United

Adelaide United had a stand at the Royal Adelaide Show in the Ridley Centre, and handed out lots of giveaways, signed autographs and had photos taken with the kids. Big Red, the AUFC mascot, also made an appearance.

We are also proud to announce that Life FM are our official broadcasters. They will be broadcasting every match LIVE on 107.9 Life FM.

Before the season began, Adelaide United's (left to right) Michael Valkanis, Chad Bugeja and Angelo Costanzo went for a hot lap with V8 ute driver Charlie Kovacs.

Melbourne Victory

Melbourne Victory players Michael Ferrante and Michael Theoklitos presented a signed ball to Christian Tsangas, a young cerebral palsy sufferer who will miss most of Victory's games this season due to a pending operation at the Royal Children's Hospital.

Christian, a football fanatic and Goalkick participant, was delighted to meet his heroes prior to their all-important first home game against Perth Glory. Young Christian was actually watching a replay of the Melbourne Victory versus Sydney FC match when the players arrived with the ball.

Everyone at Melbourne Victory wishes Christian all the best for his operation and upcoming rehabilitation.

Former Socceroos (left to right) Joe Marston, Vic Bozanic, Terry Greedy and Bill Westerveld are avid Central Coast fans. Last week the club presented them with complimentary season tickets.

Central Coast Mariners

The Central Coast Mariners Hyundai A-League campaign started in earnest with captain Noel Spencer's spectacular match-winner against the Perth Glory at Members Equity Stadium attracting national headlines. Off the pitch, the Mariners have continued to infiltrate the Central Coast community, donating several hours to children's charity 'five for five' at Erina Fair on Thursday, September 1.

Last Thursday, two days out from their blockbuster clash with the New Zealand Knights at Central Coast Stadium, the Mariners took to the catwalk at Westfield, Tuggerah to show off the trends from the centre's newest menswear stores.

Dean Heffernan, Nick Mrdja and Leo Carle were amongst those that showed potential for careers away from the football field.

Newcastle Jets

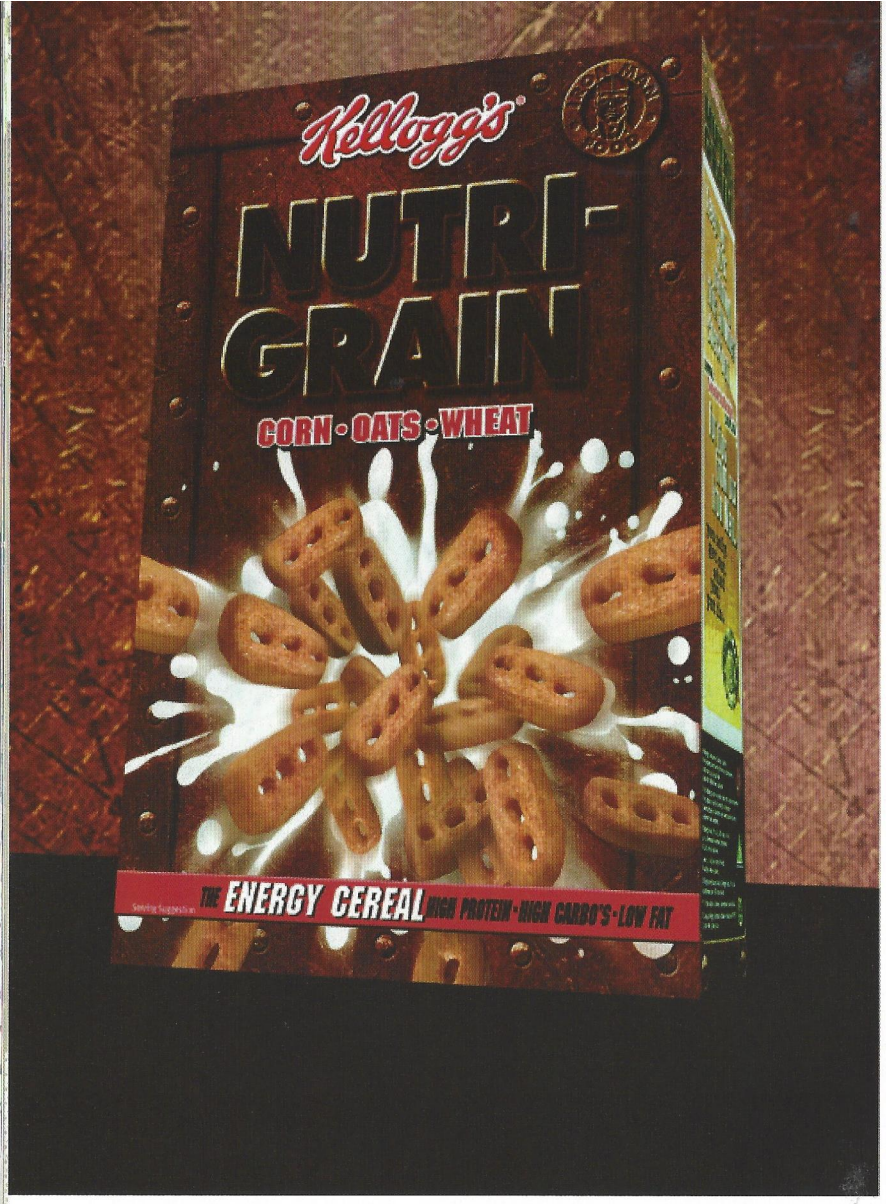
Off the park (particularly in the last month), the Jets had a solid start with 13,160 fans going through the turnstiles to see the Hyundai A-League's first-ever game. The Jets attracted a wide cross-section of the community through the gates and there is a strong belief that the new entity is connecting with the people of Newcastle.

The establishment of partnerships with the mainstream media has helped spark renewed interest among the football family and local associations. 1233 ABC Newcastle's Aaron Kearney is joined by football analyst Gary van Egmond with expert commentary and full coverage of all of the Jets Hyundai A-League games including finals for season 2005-06.

Overwhelming support from *Newcastle Herald* with James Gardiner, Stewart Roach and Renee Valentine working overtime with some great feature stories and enormous amount of coverage leading up to the first game against Adelaide United on Friday, August 26.

Greg Danvers and Barry Toohey (*Daily Telegraph*) have kept the mass publicity rolling for the Jets with good coverage plus Black Thunder crosses on NXFM and constant player interviews on KOFM has sparked incomparable interest with the people of Newcastle.

NBN-TV is a great partner of the family of sports at Newcastle, but its increased coverage of the Jets has helped the club reach a



NEW ZEALAND KNIGHTS FOOTBALL CLUB

NZKNIGHTS.COM

Kelloggs is proud to be the Official Breakfast Supplier to the New Zealand Knights Football Club. This partnership includes naming rights of the Nutri-Grain Allstar Cheerleaders who will perform pre-match and at half time at North Harbour Stadium. Children attending the Knights matches will also be able to take part in the Coco Pops Cheerleader Dance Classes. Kellogg's has a philosophy of encouraging men, women, boys and girls to be active as well as eating a balanced diet. By supporting the New Zealand Knights, Kellogg's aims to help inspire young football players to follow their dreams and achieve all of their goals - as many of the New Zealand Knights are currently doing.

The Queensland Roar's Michael Baird engages in some boxing training.

NEW ZEALAND KNIGHTS FOOTBALL CLUB

wider audience.

New Zealand Knights

The Knights play a team that is quickly becoming familiar this round when traveling to the home of the Central Coast Mariners. Pre-season saw the clubs clash twice, with wins on both occasions to the Mariners. The Knights will be looking for third time lucky in the match that matters most.

As with many NZ teams playing in Australian competitions, there are ex-pat Kiwis throughout Australia turning up at away matches to support the Knights. If you are in that category, the Knights would love to make that support official. Contact the supporters club and find out how you can become an official "long distance Knights supporter". Reach the Knights Supporters Club either via jim@jimdoherty.co.nz or www.knightsfc.com

Training sessions are always open for fans to attend. Check the club website for details, but generally the Knights train 10am to 1pm daily at North Harbour Stadium.

QUEENSLAND ROAR FC

Queensland Roar

11 home games – 11 cars

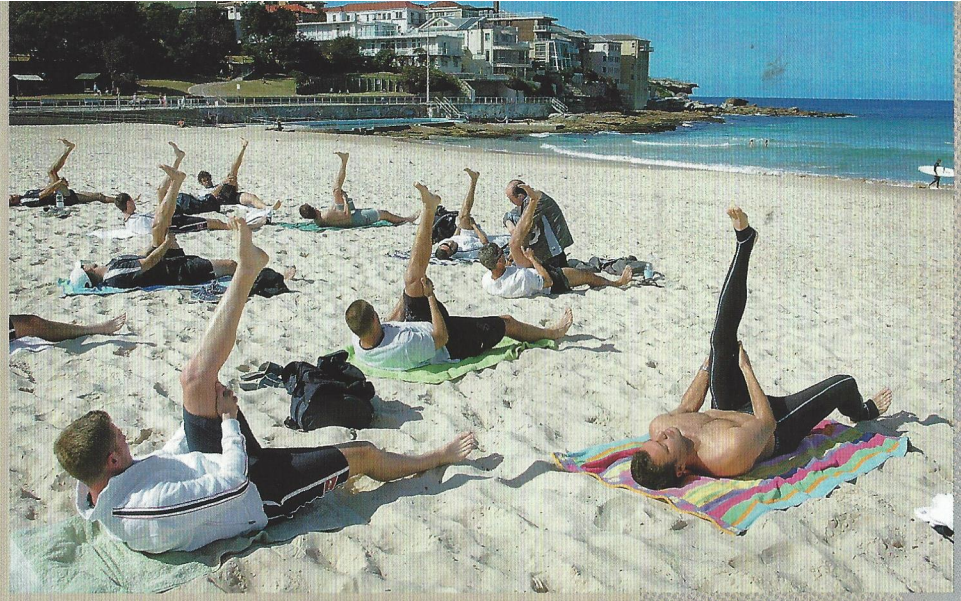
Queensland Roar has announced a major $150,000 match-day promotion for all Roar home games in the inaugural Hyundai A-League season. At every Suncorp Stadium home fixture, one lucky supporter will drive away in a brand new Hyundai Getz.

Fans can enter by text messaging their name to 19 99 ROAR (7627) or by phoning 1900 99 ROAR (7627). They must be in attendance at the stadium on game days to claim their prize.

Roar chairman John Ribot said the promotion was the club's way of adding further value to the match day experience for Roar supporters.

"The Hyundai A-League is a new venture and we need the support of the Queensland public. Football Federation Australia have built this new league and Queensland Roar have built a new team, but for it to be successful we really need people to get behind us.

"This promotion hopefully gives people an added incentive



Sydney FC are led through a recovery session at Bondi.

to come and support us at Suncorp Stadium."

Perth Glory

After public transport provider Transperth decided to discontinue services to Glory games, supporters groups in Perth are being encouraged to arrange buses to matches at Members Equity Stadium.

Rockingham-based supporters can book coach travel from their locality through Janine Peters, on 08 9527 7230 or 0408 831 984. Other supporters wishing to arrange transport to games should contact Mark Hughes at the club on 08 9492 6000 or e-mail mark.hughes@perthglory.com.au.

Glory yearbooks are still available to all members who have not yet picked up their copy of *Glory Story 8*. Fans should present their membership card to collect the 80-page book from reception at Members Equity Stadium during normal working hours or at this weekend's match against Queensland Roar.

Tickets are now on sale for the Perth Glory Dinner Auction on Friday, October 14. Lucky bidders could drive away in a brand new Hyundai Tucson or pick up one of hundreds of other highly sought after items. Tickets are $80 and available from the club on (08) 9492 6000.

Sydney FC

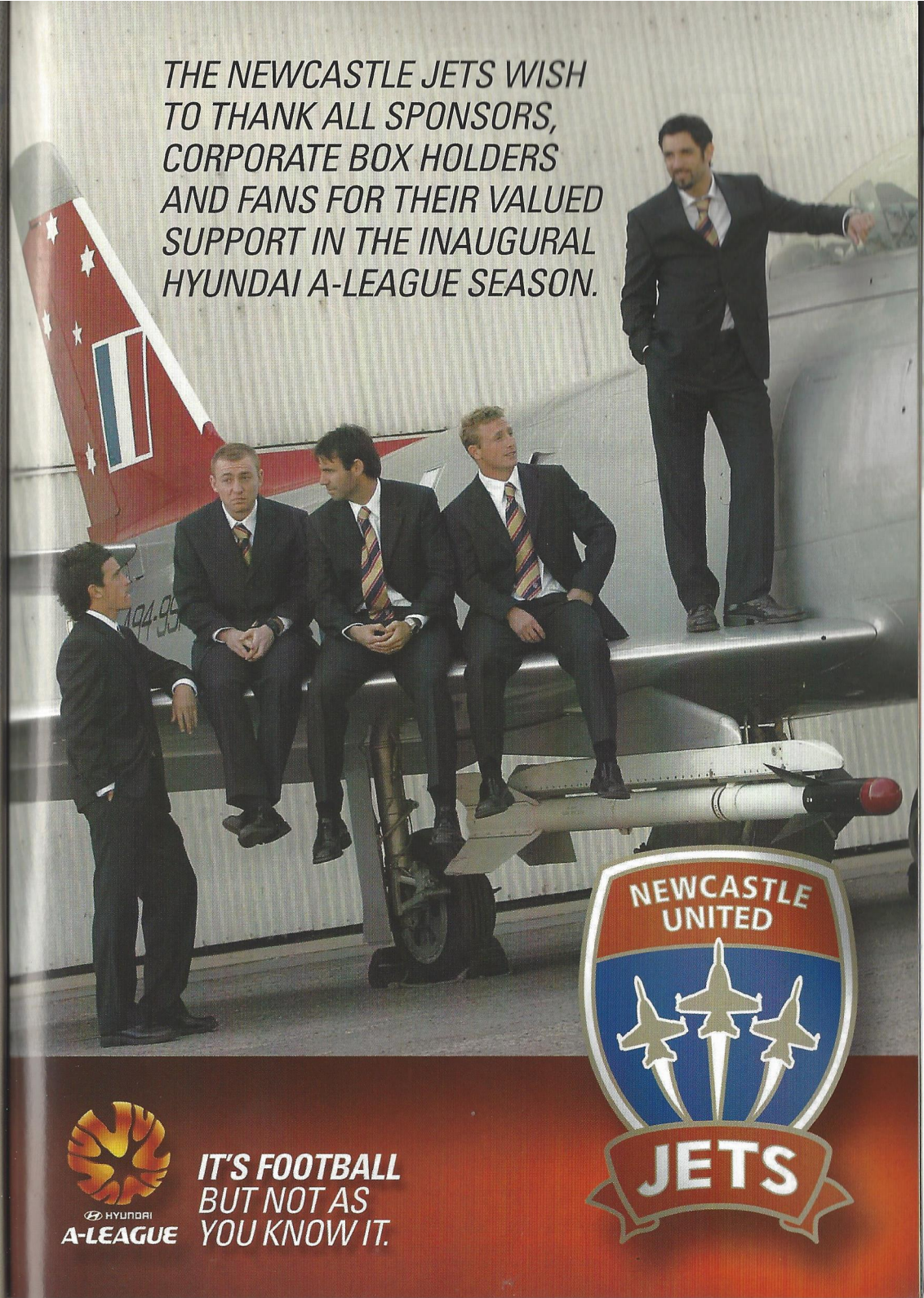
Sydney FC would like to remind fans looking at attending the Round 4 home game against the Central Coast Mariners to pre-purchase their tickets through Ticketek either online at www.ticketek.com.au or over the phone on 132 849. People who pre-purchase a ticket walk straight into the ground at Aussie Stadium.

Sydney FC has also set its pricing structure so it is cheaper to pre-purchase a ticket, trying to alleviate queues at the Aussie Stadium ticket booth.

Sydney FC is pleased to announce a sponsorship with Star City Casino, which gives Sydney FC fans a "home away from home". Trophies Bar, inside the casino, will be set up as the preferred venue to watch Sydney FC's away matches so the legion of fans who can't travel interstate, or up the F3 freeway, has a place to meet to watch the action.

Sydney FC would like to welcome Radio 2SM's popular Talkin' Football and Talkin' Sport programs to Aussie Stadium next Friday when the club hosts the Central Coast Mariners. Talkin' Football (3-4pm) and Talkin' Sport (4-7pm) will be broadcast live from Aussie Stadium.

THE NEWCASTLE JETS WISH TO THANK ALL SPONSORS, CORPORATE BOX HOLDERS AND FANS FOR THEIR VALUED SUPPORT IN THE INAUGURAL HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE SEASON.



NEWCASTLE UNITED JETS

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World Cup qualifying
European (UEFA) group

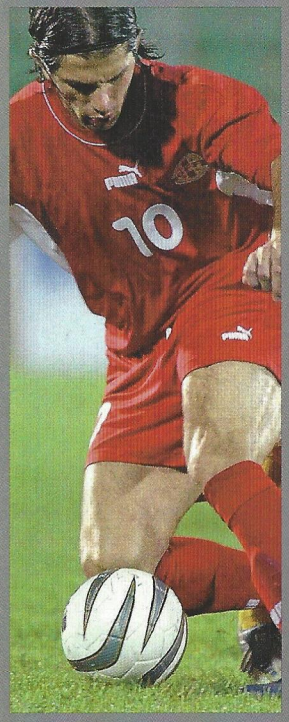
Saturday, September 3

Group 1
Andorra 0 Finland 0
Romania 2 Czech Republic 0
Armenia 1 Netherlands 0

Group 2
Albania 2 Kazakhstan 1
Turkey 2 Denmark 2
Georgia 1 Ukraine 1

Group 3
Portugal 6 Luxembourg 0
Estonia 2 Latvia 1
Russia 2 Liechtenstein 0

Group 4
France 3 Faroe Islands 0
Switzerland 1 Israel 1



Georgia's Levan Kobiashvili fights for the ball in the draw with Ukraine.

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Group 1							
Netherlands	9	8	1	0	21	3	25
Romania	11	7	1	3	19	10	22
Czech Republic	9	7	0	2	28	9	21
Finland	9	4	1	4	16	14	13
Macedonia	10	2	2	6	10	19	8
Andorra	10	1	2	7	4	27	5
Armenia	10	1	1	8	5	21	4
Group 2							
Ukraine	10	7	3	0	16	4	24
Turkey	10	4	5	1	21	9	17
Greece	9	4	3	2	12	7	15
Denmark	9	3	4	2	15	10	13
Albania	10	4	0	6	9	17	12
Georgia	9	2	3	4	13	18	9
Kazakhstan	9	0	0	9	4	25	0
Group 3							
Portugal	9	7	2	0	30	4	23
Slovakia	9	5	3	1	22	7	18
Russia	9	5	3	1	18	11	18
Estonia	10	4	2	4	14	16	14
Latvia	10	4	2	4	17	17	14
Liechtenstein	10	1	2	7	9	21	5
Luxembourg	9	0	0	9	4	38	0
Group 4							
Switzerland	7	3	4	0	14	5	13
Ireland	7	3	4	0	11	4	13
France	7	3	4	0	8	1	13
Israel	8	2	6	0	11	9	12
Cyprus	7	1	1	5	7	12	4
Faroe Islands	8	0	1	7	3	23	1

continued page 60

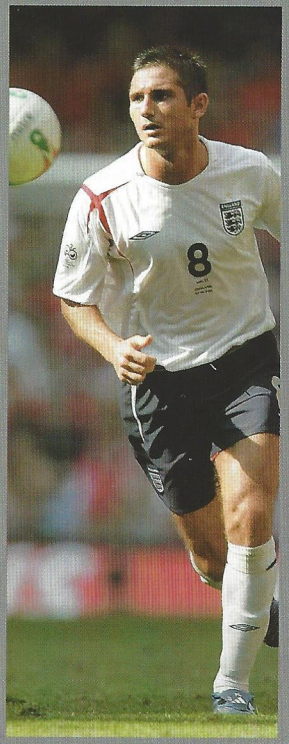
World Cup qualifying
European (UEFA) group (cont.)

Group 5
Slovenia 2 Norway 3
Scotland 1 Italy 1
Moldova 2 Belarus 0

Group 6
Poland 3 Austria 2
Northern Ireland 2 Azerbaijan 0
Wales 0 England 1

Group 7
Serbia & Montenegro 2 Lithuania 0
Bosnia 1 Belgium 0

Group 8
Hungary 4 Malta 0
Iceland 1 Croatia 3
Sweden 3 Bulgaria 0



England's Frank Lampard in action against Wales

Group 5

Italy	7	4	2	1	10	6	14
Norway	7	3	3	1	9	5	12
Slovenia	7	2	3	2	8	8	9
Belarus	7	1	4	2	10	9	7
Scotland	7	1	4	2	4	5	7
Moldova	7	1	2	4	3	11	5

Group 6

Poland	8	7	0	1	25	7	21
England	7	6	1	0	14	3	19
Austria	7	3	2	2	13	11	11
Northern Ireland	7	1	3	3	7	13	6
Wales	7	0	2	5	5	12	2
Azerbaijan	8	0	2	6	1	19	2

Group 7

Serbia & Montenegro	7	4	3	0	12	0	15
Spain	7	3	4	0	10	2	13
Bosnia	7	2	4	1	8	8	10
Lithuania	7	2	3	2	7	5	9
Belgium	7	2	2	3	7	8	8
San Marino	7	0	0	7	2	23	0

Group 8

Croatia	7	6	1	0	19	4	19
Sweden	7	6	0	1	26	2	18
Hungary	7	4	1	2	13	11	13
Bulgaria	7	2	2	3	11	14	8
Iceland	8	1	1	6	11	21	4
Malta	8	0	1	7	2	30	1

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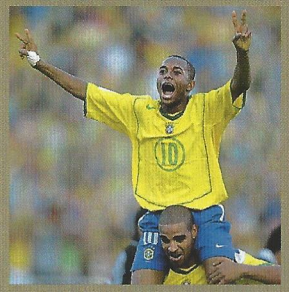
World Cup qualifying
South American (CONMEBOL) group

Saturday, September 3
Venezuela 4 Peru 1
Bolivia 1 Ecuador 2
Paraguay 1 Argentina 0
Sunday, September 4
Brazil 5 Chile 0
Uruguay 3 Colombia 2

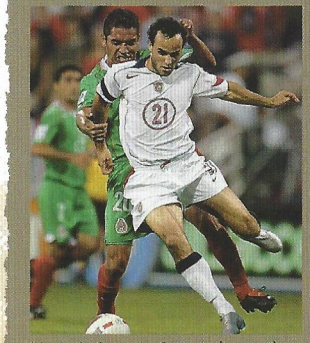


Brazil's Robinho is carried by Adriano during the win over Chile.

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	16	9	4	3	27	16	31
Brazil	16	8	6	2	31	16	30
Ecuador	16	8	2	6	23	19	26
Paraguay	16	7	4	5	22	22	25
Uruguay	16	5	6	5	22	28	21
Colombia	16	5	5	6	22	15	20
Chile	16	5	5	6	17	21	20
Venezuela	16	5	3	8	20	24	18
Peru	16	3	6	7	16	25	15
Bolivia	16	4	1	11	18	32	13

World Cup qualifying
North American (CONCACAF) group

Saturday, September 3
United States 2 Mexico 0
Trinidad & Tobago 3 Guatemala 2
Panama 1 Costa Rica 3



Mexico's Gerardo Galindo (behind) tackles Landon Donovan of the USA.

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
United States	7	6	0	1	14	3	18
Mexico	7	5	1	1	11	5	16
Costa Rica	7	3	1	3	9	11	10
Guatemala	7	2	1	4	11	12	7
Trinidad & Tobago	7	2	1	4	7	12	7
Panama	7	0	2	5	4	13	2

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

THE HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE RECOGNISES THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ITS PARTNERS.

HYUNDAI

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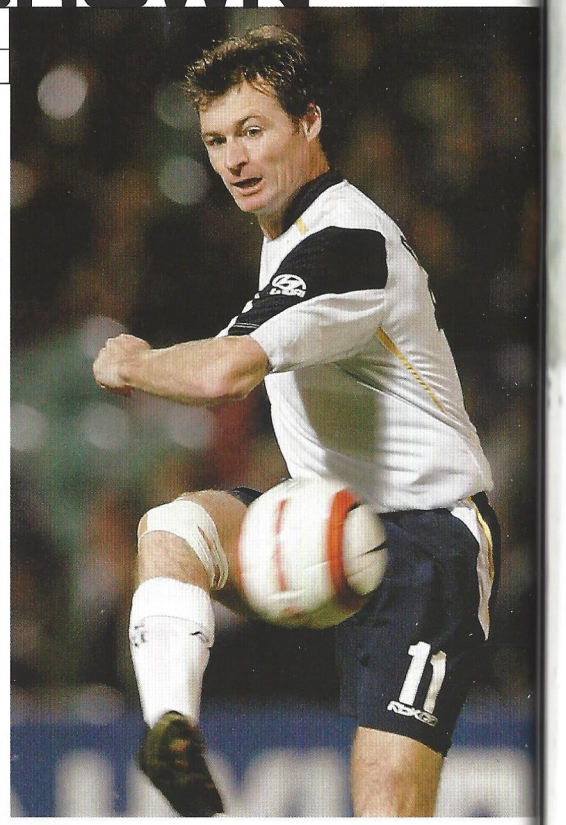
DAMIEN BROWN

CLUB: Central Coast Mariners **POSITION:** Midfielder



Trained as a teacher, Damien tells **Marlo Dangerfield** the lessons he's learnt since returning to his hometown of Gosford to play on the left wing for the Mariners.

Is it good to be back playing in the town you grew up in?
There are positives and negatives. It's great that I can spend more time with my family. But on a negative side, playing in front of so many people you know adds extra pressure.

Who are some of the strangest people from your past that have come to watch?
Because I'm a teacher, some of the teachers I've worked with turn up. When we won the Pre-Season Cup, I was giving everyone in the crowd high-fives and I realised this guy I'd high-fived was someone I'd worked with a year ago in the break.

Do you get students calling out "Go, Mr Brown"?
I get a lot of that. Even when I do autograph signings they say "Mr Brown, can you sign this?" I tell them they don't have to call me that, but they're used to it. I think it's the only time a maths teacher gets to sign anything.

Is there a lot of parochialism on the Central Coast?
A bit. When I used to go clubbing there were locals' nights and other nights you'd stay away because people from Sydney would invade. I think that's where the Sydney FC rivalry will come in – we like to think we're more relaxed and friendlier here.

You are a left-footer. Has that been an advantage or a disadvantage in your career?
Bit of both. I think I sometimes jagged a spot in a team on the left because there's a lack of left footers. But, also, I think sometimes I got pushed out wide on the left when I felt I could be more attacking in the middle of the park.

If you had to sing karaoke to save your life, what song would you sing?
It'd have to be *New York, New York*. You've got to pick the big songs for the big nights. I'd really hit those high pitches and belt it out at the end, like on *Australian Idol*.

I hope you never have to do it.
Thanks, mate.

Who are ya? Who are ya?

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